

PA Transportation Recap



IN THIS ISSUE

Co-Sponsor Memos
Press Conferences

Bill Actions
Upcoming Events
In the News

Committee Stories
Session Schedule

Co-Sponsor Memos

- [N HCO1426](#) [Everett, Garth](#)

Addresses the issue of the profiling of motorcycle riders by some law enforcement personell.
- [N HCO1449](#) [Masser, Kurt](#)

Requires each seat on every school bus to be equipped with or to be fitted with seat belts. No passenger may be carried for which a seat belt is not available. Each passenger must use a seat belt while the bus is in motion.
- [N HCO1464](#) [Kortz, Bill](#)

Allows for firefighters to have flashing blue lights used on the interior of their vehicles when responding to a fire.
- [N HCO1470](#) [Marshall, Jim](#)

Removes the requirement to secure a Recovered Theft Vehicle title when a stolen vehicle has been recovered.
- [N HCO1484](#) [Kortz, Bill](#)

Allows international airports located in Pennsylvania the ability to work with existing licensed casinos to operate slot machines within its terminals.
- [N SCO 680](#) [Bartolotta, Camera](#)

Exempts companies bidding on state road projects of \$1 million or less from certain financial statement filing requirements.
- [N SCO 687](#) [Langerholc, Wayne \(F\)](#)

Increases the maximum allowable gross weight for commercial vehicles powered by natural gas from 80,000 pounds to 82,000 pounds.
- [N SCO 692](#) [Boscola, Lisa](#)

Establishes a notification program for younger Pennsylvanians on their eligibility to register to vote.

Bill Actions

- [N HB 603](#) [Metzgar, Carl](#)

(PN 641) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) adding language providing a vehicle that is operated by an engine fueled by compressed or liquefied natural gas may exceed the 80,000 pound gross natural weight limit and any axle weight limits by an amount not to exceed 2,000 pounds that is equal to the difference between the weight of the vehicle attributable to the natural gas tank and fueling system carried by the vehicle and the weight of a comparable diesel truck and fueling system. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

02-23-17 H Filed
02-24-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

- [N HB 604](#) [Costa, Dom](#)

(PN 642) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) increasing the fine for failure to keep right while driving on a limited access highway

from \$25 to \$100. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

02-23-17 H Filed
02-24-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

N [HB 605](#) [Costa, Dom](#)

(PN 643) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in offenses in general, increasing certain penalties for depositing waste and other material on highway, property or waters and adding that at least five percent of the amount allocated for statewide public education and awareness programs to promote litter control and recycling shall be used for signage to be placed along Pennsylvania roadways that notify the public of littering fines. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

02-23-17 H Filed
02-24-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

N [HB 607](#) [Costa, Dom](#)

(PN 645) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in miscellaneous provisions, prohibiting individuals from smoking in a vehicle which is transporting a child under age 12 and providing for penalties. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

02-23-17 H Filed
02-24-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

N [HB 611](#) [Cruz, Angel](#)

(PN 649) Amends Title 65 (Public Officers) to require public officials and public employees who operate government vehicles to provide proof annually that they have a valid driver's license. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

02-23-17 H Filed
02-24-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Government

N [HB 613](#) [Cruz, Angel](#)

(PN 650) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in rules of the road in general, to disallow cutting through a gas station when at a red-light to get around red-light traffic. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

02-23-17 H Filed
02-24-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

N [HB 615](#) [Cruz, Angel](#)

(PN 652) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in penalties and disposition of fines, further providing for inability to pay fine and costs by adding court-ordered community service may be imposed in lieu of payment of up to 50 percent of the fine and costs originally imposed. The court shall fix the duration, time, and manner of the performance of community service. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

02-23-17 H Filed
02-24-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

N [HB 635](#) [Simmons, Justin](#)

(PN 672) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in registration of vehicles, providing for expectant mother or parent of young child placard; in rules of the road in general, further providing for additional parking regulations to accommodate the placard; and making editorial changes. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

02-24-17 H Filed

<p>N HB 636</p>	<p>Simmons, Justin</p>	<p>02-27-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation</p>
		<p>(PN 673) Amends the Public School Code, in transportation of pupils, providing for a link to the Megan's Law website required on any communication related to transportation distributed to students, parents or the public by any school district where transportation is provided. Effective in 60 days.</p>
<p>Bill History:</p>		<p>02-24-17 H Filed 02-27-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education</p>
<p>N HB 656</p>	<p>Cruz, Angel</p>	<p>(PN 695) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in driving after imbibing alcohol or utilizing drugs, providing for impoundment of vehicles at the time of arrest for 12 hours whenever a person has been arrested for a violation of section 3802 (relating to driving under influence of alcohol or controlled substance). Effective in 60 days.</p>
<p>Bill History:</p>		<p>02-28-17 H Filed 02-28-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation</p>
<p>N HB 658</p>	<p>Cruz, Angel</p>	<p>(PN 711) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in enforcement, further providing for investigation by police officers by adding that no police officer who stops a vehicle as part of a systematic program of checking vehicles or drivers may use a data extraction device to secure information from an electronic device in the possession of the driver or passenger in the vehicle. Effective in 60 days.</p>
<p>Bill History:</p>		<p>02-28-17 H Filed 03-01-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation</p>
<p>N HB 660</p>	<p>Cruz, Angel</p>	<p>(PN 698) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in licensing of drivers, further providing for application for driver's license or learner's permit, providing for issuance of driver's license or learner's permit to undocumented resident; establishing the Undocumented Resident Driver's License Services Administration Fund; and imposing penalties. The bill establishes that a person who has resided in this Commonwealth for 90 days or more may apply for an undocumented resident driver's license or learner's permit if the person is ineligible to obtain a Social Security number and unable to present documentation issued by the Federal Government authorizing the person's lawful presence in the United States. Effective in 60 days.</p>
<p>Bill History:</p>		<p>02-28-17 H Filed 02-28-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation</p>
<p>N HB 662</p>	<p>Baker, Matt</p>	<p>(PN 700) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in fees relating to title, registration and licensing, further providing for exemption of disabled persons from vehicle registration fees if their income does not exceed \$19,200 annually. Effective in 60 days.</p>
<p>Bill History:</p>		<p>02-28-17 H Filed 02-28-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation</p>

<p>N HB 691</p>	<p>Cruz, Angel</p>	<p>Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in rules of the road in general, providing for removal of vehicles in a city of the first class.</p>
<p>Bill History:</p>		<p>03-02-17 H Filed</p>
<p>N SB 427</p>	<p>Vulakovich, Randy</p>	<p>(PN 396) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in operation of vehicles, adding a chapter providing for highly automated vehicles and platooning testing. Portions are effective in 45 days and the remainder is effective in 90 days.</p>
<p>Bill History:</p>		<p>02-24-17 S Filed 02-24-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Transportation</p>
<p>N SB 431</p>	<p>Scavello, Mario</p>	<p>(PN 423) Amends Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 75 (Vehicles), in nuisances, further providing for the offense of scattering rubbish; in registration of vehicles and in licensing of drivers, further providing for the acknowledgment of littering provisions; and, in miscellaneous provisions, further providing for the offense of depositing of waste and other material on highway, property or waters. The bill outlines and increases fines and penalties for littering. Effective in six months.</p>
<p>Bill History:</p>		<p>02-27-17 S Filed 02-27-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Transportation</p>
<p>N SB 435</p>	<p>Boscola, Lisa</p>	<p>(PN 426) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in miscellaneous provisions, requiring a driver to make a reasonable effort to remove snow or ice from the vehicle within 24 hours of the cessation of the falling snow or ice. The bill provides for exceptions and penalties. Effective in 60 days.</p>
<p>Bill History:</p>		<p>02-27-17 S Filed 02-27-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Transportation</p>
<p>N SB 444</p>	<p>White, Donald</p>	<p>(PN 435) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in taxes for highway maintenance and construction, further providing for allocation of proceeds by tying the annual maintenance payment of \$4,000 to the inflation rate. Applicable retroactively to January 1, 2008. Effective in 60 days.</p>
<p>Bill History:</p>		<p>02-27-17 S Filed 02-27-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Transportation</p>
<p>N SB 476</p>	<p>Farnese, Lawrence</p>	<p>(PN 466) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in miscellaneous provisions, further providing for penalties for accidents involving death or personal injury. For each victim, the court shall impose an additional fine and consecutive minimum term of imprisonment and, in addition to the minimum terms of imprisonment, the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing shall provide within its guidelines a sentencing enhancement if the person convicted under this section is also convicted of a violation of section 3802 (relating to driving under influence of alcohol or controlled substance) that occurred concurrently with the violation. This enhanced term of imprisonment shall be served consecutively. Effective in 60 days.</p>
<p>Bill History:</p>		<p>03-01-17 S Filed 03-01-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Judiciary</p>

Committee Stories

Senate Appropriations Budget Hearing with PennDOT (BH)

2/27/17, 3:00 p.m., Hearing Room #1 North Office Building

By Jeff Cox, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee held a budget hearing with the Department of Transportation (PennDOT).

Chairman Browne explained that the total proposed funding for the department for 2017-18 is essentially two components for a total of \$9.654 billion

[Leslie Richards](#), Secretary, Department of Transportation, provided a written statement to the committee.

Sen. Rafferty, chairman of the Transportation Committee, asked for a synopsis of the projects the department has been able to do because of the passage of Act 89. Sec. Richards reported that as of the beginning of February, 2017, the department has completed 1,890 projects made possible by Act 89. She added these projects have been worth \$3.6 billion. Sec. Richards also reported PennDOT has an additional 760 projects for \$4.9 billion that are underway. She explained, "What this means as far as the Decade of Investment projects is from an original list of 9,299 projects, we have now completed 2,682 projects, or 29 percent, for that list. According to Sec. Richards an additional 3,473, or 37 percent, is programmed. She noted that this means two-thirds of the projects on the list are either completed or programmed to be done on the 12-year Capital Program. Sec. Richards explained that prior to Act 89, the department was able to do \$1.5 billion in highway and bridge construction and now the department can do \$2.4 billion. She further explained that prior to Act 89, PennDOT was able to complete 180 bridges per year and this year it was more than 300. Sec. Richards also pointed out that before Act 89 for state highway maintenance the department was able to complete about 2,800 miles and now they can do 5,700 miles.

Sen. Rafferty commented that he has gotten some negative feedback about grants being applied for and there seems to be delay in being notified that the grants are coming out. He asked Sec. Richards if there is anything she can do in that regard. Sec. Richards explained that with the multi-modal grants the department is receiving "hundreds of applications." She further explained that as of December the department had more than 200 applications totaling \$200 million and there is only \$40 million available. Sec. Richards commented that PennDOT has to be very careful how they prioritize and look at everything. She pointed out the department has extended the review period.

Sen. Rafferty reported that Gov. Tom Wolf recently proposed a \$25 per head tax for the Pennsylvania State Police to reduce the dependence on the Motor License Fund for funding the State Police. He wanted to know if there is a "Plan B" if the governor's proposal is not enacted. Sec. Richards responded, "First of all we want to see that the State Police has all the money they need." She added that the department is willing to discuss other options to ensure there is a dedicated line of funding for the State Police.

Sen. Rafferty noted that Pennsylvania enacted private-public partnership (P3) legislation a few years ago and he asked Sec. Richards about her thoughts on the use of P3s and how it may impact getting additional federal funding. Sec. Richards responded that the state secretaries of Transportation are gathering in Washington tomorrow to hear President Trump's address to Congress and to meet with the new US Transportation secretary, Elaine Chao. She commented that Pennsylvania does have a P3 statute and has active P3 projects moving forward. Sec. Richards noted, "P3 is not an end-all answer. It is a funding mechanism and it is an option but it does not create revenue where revenue doesn't exist."

Sen. Rafferty then discussed the elimination of the vehicle registration sticker and the discussions in the House about providing funding to local police to purchase special scanners. He said that he does not see the need for legislation and the department could assist local police in the purchase of such scanners. According to Sec. Richards, the department is saving \$3 to \$4 million per year with the elimination of the sticker. She expressed a willingness to provide some funding. Sec. Richards added that there was no interest in legislation to provide the grants so the department put the money into construction, elaborating that the department discussed the matter with the Transportation committees and there was no interest in introducing or moving legislation.

Sen. Sabatina thanked Gov. Wolf and Sec. Richards for the investments they have made in the Commonwealth's ports in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Erie. Sec. Richards reported \$300 million has been invested in the port of Philadelphia. She also told the committee members that the dredging of the Delaware River is 85 percent completed and it is expect to be finished this year. Sec. Richards added moneys are being used for the purchase of new cranes to handle the expected increase in activity at the ports as a result of the previous investments. She also provided a brief overview of the department's efforts with the ports in Erie and Pittsburgh due to Act 89. Sen. Sabatina wanted to know how many jobs have been created as a result of the investments. Sec. Richards explained that as a rule in Transportation. For every \$1 billion spent, 25,000 to 30,000 jobs are created.

Sen. Sabatina asked about the department's efforts with dealing with structurally deficient bridges. Sec. Richards reported that Pennsylvania has the second highest number instead of the highest number of structurally deficient bridges. She explained that every year 200 to 250 bridges are deemed structurally deficient so the department needs to fix 300 per year to maintain pace and reduce the overall number. Sec. Richards noted the list of bridges is now around 3,600.

Sen. Sabatina wanted an update on the closure of the Delaware River Bridge on the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Sec. Richards explained that the damage was due to a process that was allowed during the bridge's construction in the 1950s but is no longer allowed. She further explained that the bridge has been x-rayed and two other spots on the bridge have similar welds which are being addressed. Sec. Richards explained that this is a short-term fix. She also said the bridge could reopen in "a couple of months."

Sen. Langerholc asked about other impacts the Act 89 moneys are having. Sec. Richards responded, "The need is so great and our infrastructure is very important." She pointed out that during the discussion regarding Act 89 the study that was done said that \$7.2 billion was needed to take care of Pennsylvania's transportation network and Act 89 provides \$2.5 billion. Sec. Richard then provided a brief overview of the PennDOT Connects initiative. She told committee members, "Every single project moving forward at PennDOT will engage in a collaborative effort with our communities."

Sen. Langerholc wanted to know how many counties have adopted the \$5 registration fee that is allowed under Act 89. Seventeen, according to Sec. Richards.

Sen. Langerholc wanted to know what savings were realized because of the mild winter and where did those savings go. Sec. Richards explained that the weather has been mild in this area and in southeastern Pennsylvania but that is not the case in the remainder of the state which has had several snow storms especially on weekends which increases the overtime costs. She added that \$205 million was budgeted and \$184 million has been spent so far.

Sen. Blake briefly discussed the need for passenger rail in northeastern Pennsylvania especially in the Scranton area. Sec. Richards responded that the department is hoping for additional federal aid for passenger rail service.

Sen. Vogel asked about emissions testing and whether the department is implementing a new testing program and its impact on local businesses. Sec. Richards explained that the department does emissions testing and there are federal guidelines. She further explained that they are constantly monitoring the emissions testing and its impact on smaller garages. Sen. Vogel spoke of his plans to introduce legislation exempting new cars from the testing. Sec. Richards responded that the department would be open to discussions regarding Sen. Vogel's proposed legislation.

Sen. Vogel then wanted to know why the same procedure is not used on I-80 as the Pennsylvania Turnpike when it comes to merging traffic lanes do to construction projects. Sec. Richards explained that the department is always looking at the latest studies to find ways to make traffic flow better. She noted the turnpike is limited access when it comes to traffic. She added she will look into the matter raised by Sen. Vogel.

Sen. Argall asked about the governor's proposal to repeal the tax exemption for fixed wing maintenance and parts for aircraft which could cause the loss of aircraft industry jobs. Sec. Richards responded that it is not going to have a huge impact on the industry.

Sen. Mensch commented that there is a rumor in Montgomery County that PennDOT is using a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) for a road construction project. Sec. Richard responded that PennDOT is looking at a PLA in Montgomery County. She explained, "We have been asked to look at the hundreds of our projects that will be

advertised and awarded this year and we took a look and selected one as a pilot project to see how this may work in Pennsylvania." Sec. Richards added that the department will be monitoring it closely and assessing it see "if it makes sense to do any more or if it may be a one and done." She reported they have had problems with projects in Pennsylvania with change orders, missing deadlines and cost overruns. Sec. Richards commented, "I truly feel we need to look at every resource and every tool that we have." She pointed out that PLAs have worked very successfully in other states. Sen. Mensch countered that some of Sec. Richards' concerns could be addressed through performance guarantees in contracts. He argued that PLAs should not be used to guarantee things are done on time. Sen. Mensch also argued that PLAs increase the costs of projects. Sec. Richards responded that other states did not see an increase in costs.

Sen. Street asked about maintaining paved roads in Philadelphia. According to Sen. Street, the previous Administration ended reimbursements to the city for maintenance of paved roads. He wanted to know if there are any plans to revisit this issue. Sec. Richards responded that PennDOT works very closely with the city and they are in constant conversation. She explained there are streets in Philadelphia the city maintains and operates and there are streets PennDOT maintains and operates. Sec. Richards commented, "I understand we are on good terms with the city and I don't think any of the streets are left out." She added, "I believe the city of Philadelphia is well pleased with our restructuring."

Sen. Baker wanted to know the percentage of PennDOT employees would be eligible under the governor's early retirement proposal. Sec. Richards responded, "It impacts about five percent." She added that the department is preparing for it and spoke about the challenge of succession planning.

Sen. Baker then asked when the liquid fuels payment will be released. Sec. Richards replied, "March 1." Sen. Baker wanted to know how much will be distributed. According to Sec. Richards, \$495 million will be going out.

Sen. Baker then asked about improving smaller roads by using recycled materials. Sec. Richards outlined PennDOT's RoadMaP initiative. She explained she plans to allocate \$1 billion over a ten-year period to the counties for improved basic maintenance; an additional \$500 million to the existing interstate preservation program, bringing that ten-year program to \$1 billion; and \$600 million towards highway and bridge capital projects with priority given to rehabilitation and reconstruction needs identified through the department's district and regional planning efforts. She further explained, "PennDOT RoadMaP will bring new emphasis on pavement improvements to the secondary, lower volume road network." Sec. Richards told lawmakers, "This will be accomplished by several means, ranging from the use of recycled asphalt taken from improvement projects."

Sen. Baker expressed concern with the governor's proposed State Police fee and its impact on local communities. She opined that any solution should not be "punitive" to communities and expressed the need for a statewide solution.

Sen. Killian wanted to know how many jobs have been created as a result of Act 89. Sec. Richards estimated about 60,000 jobs in the Pennsylvania economy including jobs related to construction and also what is left afterwards. She also provided an overview of the PennDOT Connects initiative.

Sen. Schwank asked about the working relationship between the department and emergency responders and if there is anything in the budget to address that issue. Sec. Richards discussed some of the structural changes made at PennDOT to respond to emergency situations and how they prepare for storms, handle equipment, and share personnel. She explained how the department coordinates efforts with other agencies. Sen. Schwank then asked about PennDOT's license centers. Sec. Richards explained that there are 71 drivers' license centers and the department now has IT support which helps them better distribute their staff and make sure they can handle who is coming into the centers. She reported that by this summer the department will post the wait times at the centers with a goal of people being taken care of in 30 minutes or less.

Sen. Vulakovich wanted to know what grade Sec. Richards would give the department's IT systems. Sec. Richards replied, "A+." She explained how the department is utilizing innovative technology. Sec. Richards noted they are using some very old systems. She also explained that the department is investing in new technology. Sen. Vulakovich requested a list of the commissions under the department and whether they are still needed. He also commented that the automobile industry has expressed concern with his automated vehicle legislation. Sen. Vulakovich asked if the \$7.2 billion needed for transportation is just for roads and bridges. Sec. Richards responded,

"For everything but a majority is for roads and bridges." She explained that Pennsylvania has unique challenges including the seasons and the terrain.

Sen. Martin asked about the 25 percent increase in aviation operations. He wanted to know what is happening with the aviation industry. Sec. Richards responded that aviation is an area that "really needs help with its operations." She pointed out there are dozens of local airports as well as the larger ones in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh and the department tries to help them reduce costs and share ideas on best practices. Sen. Martin wanted to know if there is a need to look at the liquid fuels distribution formulas and make adjustments. Sec. Richards responded that the formulas are based on population and volume of traffic. She commented that people are not extremely unhappy with the formulas right now. Sec. Richards added the department is always willing to talk about possible changes.

Noting a local bridge project in his district, Sen. Martin wanted to know if there is any way to speed up the permitting process. Sec. Richards explained that PennDOT is working very well right now with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on processing permits and is also working with the Public Utility Commission (PUC) on utility permits. She added the department has a "difficult relationship with the railroads" but the department meets with them regularly.

Sen. Martin shared his experience in Lancaster County with PLAs and how they increased the costs of projects. Sec. Richards asked him to share any information he may have. She added, "The more information we have the better."

Sen. Wagner requested a more detailed organizational chart for the department with job titles and salaries as well as a list of bridge projects by county. Sec. Richards responded that the department will provide information. Sen. Wagner wanted to know how many bridges are closed. Sec. Richards said that she would have to get that information. Sen. Wagner then asked about efforts to reduce litter along the interstates and state roads. Sec. Richards explained that roadside litter has been an issue and the department budgets \$9 million for trash pick-up. She pointed out that wind patterns make some areas are "magnets for trash" where the department will pick up the trash in the morning and by the afternoon the trash is back. Sec. Richards also spoke about the need for the public to stop littering. She explained the department works with the Federal Highway Administration on the issue and the department is "as aggressive as we can be." Sec. Richards added that the department is open to any ideas on reducing the litter.

Sen. Brewster asked how the state has done with mass transit regionalization and consolidation. Sec. Richards explained how the department is able to encourage consolidations under Act 89. She spoke about some of the mergers that have occurred in south central Pennsylvania and some of the savings they have incurred. Sen. Brewster then asked about the cost to comply with the federal REAL ID. Sec. Richards responded that she did not have an estimate because some states have been given some flexibility and she hoped Pennsylvania would receive that same flexibility. She explained that once Act 38 is repealed, PennDOT can begin conversations with the Department of Homeland Security.

Sen. Yaw reported that he has had numerous private contractors tell him PennDOT should do maintenance and should not be involved in "ten miles of paving." He also said that the contractors claim when PennDOT does a paving program they do not meet the same safety requirements as a private contractor. Sec. Richards responded that this was the first time she has heard this and she will look into it and expressed her surprise that the department is not meeting the same safety requirements. She noted that \$3 out of every \$4 PennDOT spends goes to the private sector. Sen. Yaw asked about the shared ride program. Sec. Richards said that the programs are run by the counties and stop at the county lines. Citing her experience as a SEPTA board member, she described the shared ride program as "very challenging."

Sen. Ward asked if any money has been budgeted for REAL ID implementation. Sec. Richards explained why the cost cannot be determined until it is determined what the Department of Homeland Security will say about Pennsylvania's current program. She again expressed her hope that Pennsylvania will get the same flexibility that other states have been given by the Department of Homeland Security.

Sen. Eichelberger asked about the increase in liquid fuel funds for local government as a result of Act 89. Sec. Richards responded that there has been a 54 percent increase due to Act 89. Sen. Eichelberger reported he has received calls from some townships in his district claiming PennDOT has been pushing off some the tasks they used

to do on the townships. Sec. Richards asked Sen. Eichelberger to follow-up with her office and she will look into the individual cases.

Sen. Rafferty asked about the Green Light-Go initiative and the reduction in the local match. Sec. Richards said that the department is seeing more interest in the program by local municipalities due to the reduction.

Sen. Sabatina asked about AMTRAK. Sec. Richards explained that PennDOT provides \$15 million for the Harrisburg to New York corridor and the Philadelphia to Pittsburgh corridor. She also explained the department is in constant discussions with AMTRAK about a Pittsburgh to Harrisburg corridor but the problem is that track restrictions mean a train trip from Harrisburg to Pittsburgh takes longer than travelling by car. Sec. Richards also reported the department has a P3 program right now to get the Middletown station compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Chairman Browne commented that he was told that the state received \$40 million in federal general freight money and it all went to the I-95 corridor project. Sec. Richards said that she would look into it. Chairman Browne then asked Sec. Richards if she had any recommended legislative changes to improve the department. Sec. Richards explained how the department is always looking for ways to do things better and more efficiently. She added the department is always open to new ideas.

- 30 -

House Appropriations Committee budget hearing with PUC (BH)

3/1/17, 1:30 p.m., 140 Main Capitol

By Kimberly Hess, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee held a budget hearing with the [Public Utility Commission](#) (PUC), represented by Chairman Gladys Brown and Commissioners Andrew Place, John Coleman, Robert Powelson, and David Sweet.

Brown provided an overview of the budget request and noted that the 1.1 percent increase in state funds outlined therein is driven by contractual and salary requirements, benefit requirements, and other nondiscretionary vendor goods and services. She highlighted the enactment of Act 164, regarding transportation network companies (TNCs), and said three companies are now under a permanent license under that.

Rep. Ortity asked how the diversity of the portfolio and access to natural gas for new generation has contributed to stable and lower electricity costs. Brown replied that Pennsylvania has seen more and more generation that is gas-fired as well as the retirement of some of the coal plants. She noted Pennsylvania is also second in the nation in terms of nuclear power in addition to having a lot of solar and wind generation. She said PUC has been on the record regarding the Clean Energy Plan and is very supportive of having a diverse portfolio, and that prefers to use the resources that are here. She confirmed electricity prices have gone down and pointed out people that do not have natural gas in their homes still benefit because it is cheap and used in generation. Regarding coal-fired plants, Powelson said Pennsylvania has lost close to 10,000 megawatts of coal capacity and replaced that with gas. He commented on the importance of fuel diversity and said PJM is looking at that issue. He also noted that since 2008 local gas distribution companies have seen a 68 percent reduction in gas purchase costs, wholesale power prices have dropped 56 percent, and there has been a 28 percent reduction in NOx, Ox and mercury.

Rep. Krueger-Braneky asked about pipelines, noting that Mariner II East is coming through her district. She said the PUC monitors more than 48,000 miles of lines and has 15 gas safety inspectors. She asked how many additional miles the commission will be responsible for as the new lines come into operation. Coleman provided a review of the gas pipeline network in Pennsylvania, confirming the distribution companies have about 48,000 miles. He said the PUC has oversight of classes two through four, with about 1,000 miles of pipeline between them. He pointed out most of the pipelines are in class one, which are those in the most rural areas. He explained those lines are to be part of a registry and that about 7,000 have been registered. Speaking to gas safety, Coleman pointed out that the commission requested funding last year for two additional inspectors and added that he expects demand to continue. He said it takes five to seven years to get an inspector through the training process. Rep. Krueger-Braneky asked how Mariner II East is classified. Coleman explained the class is based on location, so Mariner II East is in class one in the most rural areas and moves up to 2, 3, and 4 as it goes through more urban areas. Rep. Krueger-Braneky asked how many inspectors will be added this year. Brown said the budget request asks for two more; it will not

increase the complement, but instead repurpose two PUC employees. Rep. Krueger-Braneky asked if PUC has regulatory authority over the siting of pipelines. Brown replied in the negative and explained the difference between interstate and intrastate, noting that it is based on the fuel mix in the pipeline. She said the PUC has gas safety responsibility, but that siting oversight is the jurisdiction of the federal government. Rep. Krueger-Braneky said her understanding is the federal government does not have jurisdiction over Mariner East II because it is an intrastate line. Brown said the PUC does not have jurisdiction and said she would find out who does.

Rep. Santora asked if the PUC has any authority over companies installing the pipelines. Coleman explained the distribution companies are the companies the commission oversees and the PUC has safety oversight of the non-jurisdictional lines in the ground. Interstate pipelines, he said, are under federal jurisdiction and the PUC works in partnership with the federal government regarding them. Rep. Santora discussed the "rigorous training" and asked who does the inspections for intrastate lines. He narrowed his question to Mariner East II. Coleman explained the PUC has certified Mariner II and said it is ready for construction. Gas safety inspectors will be in the field inspecting the construction process, he explained, until the line is fully operational. He confirmed construction would be shut down immediately if a problem were found.

Rep. Santora then discussed TNCs and asked where the regulations around them stand. Brown replied the regulations have not moved, but said the PUC has acted on regulations for the limousine and tax service under Act 85 to put them on a level playing field for the TNCs. She said the PUC is looking to see what is needed for the TNCs and indicated it is too soon to move. Rep. Santora asked the PUC to keep an eye on the issue, remarking he is seeing a lot of businesses losing their homes "and they're not quite on a level playing field yet." He lamented the medallions were made into property and now the owners are "upside down." Powelson said the commission has tried to provide a variety of safe transportation options, which are provided by Act 164. He pointed out that taxis and limos have the option to offer dynamic pricing and. Regarding medallions, he called that a "PPA problem" because the Philadelphia Parking Authority (PPA) created an unsustainable market. He emphasized that the job of the PUC is to ensure safety. Rep. Santora said "we created that problem," to which Powelson clarified that it was the PPA that created the system.

Rep. Flynn commented on the closure of coal-fired plants and increase of natural gas fired plants. He wondered how much private capital is being invested and to what benefit for consumers. Coleman offered to provide the data but said hundreds of millions of dollars are being invested across the PJM footprint. He said "this is a market signal" that has created an opportunity for new gas-fired generation. He described the change in the market as the price of natural gas dropped, which he noted, has also put pressure on the nuclear facilities. He said it is a challenge to keep fuel diversity with natural gas so cheap.

Rep. Boback said she understands that the PUC participated in the governor's pipeline infrastructure task force. She asked about the recommendations that unregulated rural gathering lines be regulated. Brown noted she served on the task force and confirmed that that was one of the recommendations. She explained that state law exempts class one lines, so the recommendation's implementation would require legislative action. Coleman provided a "damage prevention point of view," and confirmed the PUC is working to include class one lines under PA One Call. He said this is the greatest threat to underground utilities and noted there are more than 6,000 hits of underground utilities each year, and most of those are the class one lines. He said the six-year effort to remove that exemption has been an ongoing point of contention. He added, however, that he is optimistic progress will be made. Rep. Boback asked if that includes oversight and line safety. Coleman said oversight would be a major sea-change because it would include thousands of miles of pipelines and require major discussions with the federal government. Rep. Boback said, "You just cannot put a price tag on public safety."

Rep. Dean expressed concern with well contaminations and asked for an explanation of the PUC's role in working with water companies and municipalities, particularly relating to the York water company. Powelson noted he dealt with it personally because his son's school was affected and said Flint, Michigan, has focused on replacing the cast iron, bare steel system. He said Pennsylvania is "in a good place there," and noted the PUC works closely with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regarding water contamination and water quality testing. He was concerned about water authorities "and their ability to properly tackle these issues." Rep. Dean recalled a conversation with DEP regarding a decrease in inspections. She asked about the PUC's role in working with DEP to get on target. Powelson highlighted that there were about 1,000 distressed water systems in 2005 and stressed efforts since then to get those entities into a better capital structure. Regarding lead, he said DEP is trying to identify the problem through testing. If the utility tested is an investor-owned utility regulated by the PUC, the agency, he said, takes action. He pointed out that the York subject is on the agenda at tomorrow's PUC meeting. Rep. Dean said

the state has a constitutional responsibility to provide clean drinking water and must put to bear any resources that are necessary for it.

Rep. Milne "drilled down on the tension" between the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and municipalities in terms of pipelines. He asked about the relationship between the PUC and FERC. Brown said the PUC works with FERC, but does not interfere where FERC has clear jurisdiction. Coleman elaborated on the interactions between the two agencies and confirmed there is regular frequency of interaction with the FERC commissioners and that ideas and concerns are exchanged. Further, he said, there is a federal group within the commission that looks at the dockets at FERC to determine how they relate to Pennsylvania and whether to comment formally. Powelson pointed out that pipeline projects are also getting more controversial as population grows. He said, however, "we need to get gas to market" and confirmed interstate pipelines are clearly under FERC. He credited FERC for redesigning its process to address criticisms of a lack of transparency or public input.

Rep. Kinsey discussed Act 213 of 2004 as it relates to solar energy. He asked if there has been growth in that market and whether the growth reaches urban areas. Place said the solar carve-out "is small" and that the installed capacity is substantially more than is required. He confirmed developers would say more could be done to incentivize solar development. Regarding urban solar energy growth, he advocated for community solar gardens, particularly in urban settings, but noted that would require legislative authorization. He suggested that could be dovetailed with the energy efficiency provisions of Act 129 and target congestion. "The challenge is to get the price right," he added. Rep. Kinsey asked if smart meters are under Act 129 and what the commission is doing regarding them. Brown confirmed smart meters are under Act 129 and required to be in place fully by 2021. Benefits have "far surpassed" what the legislature was thinking of, she argued, reporting that smart meters are helpful in terms of resiliency, identification of outages, and faster restorations. In terms of innovations, she said smart meters offer technology and helpful data for third party providers.

Lastly, Rep. Kinsey discussed the rate increase requested by PGW and asked what the process is for public input. Brown said the statute provides for a nine-month period for rate increases and the PUC holds public hearings. She also discussed "smart hearings" at the PUC that allow people to participate via phone or streaming hearings.

Rep. Pyle was curious for more information regarding the portfolio and pointed out Pittsburgh only has three days of "harvestable" sunshine. Brown said coal is at 37 percent while natural gas is at 23 percent. Rep. Pyle said various state agencies have been telling him coal's demise is due to the growth of gas, but he wondered how many gas burners are up and running since 11 coal plants have been taken offline and whether the hole is being filled. Powelson looked at the investments and said new merchant plants have been built, such as Moxie Energy, and stated that they are 500-plus megawatts. "That's a direct play on Marcellus," he said, but he remarked on the need to look to get back to diversity. Sweet also stated the shift toward gas has also been about increasing utilization of existing gas. Rep. Pyle recalled that "a shootout" last year had resulted in a resignation of a cabinet secretary regarding Chapters 78 and 78a. He described the discord over those regulations as having made it difficult to get traditional gas into the gathering lines. He questioned what difficulties this has posed for the PUC. Brown responded the PUC would respond in writing.

Rep. Bullock followed up regarding PGW's requested rate hike, which is purportedly due in part to global warming. She also cited discrepancies in whether PGW needs \$40 million or \$70 million and asked for assurance that Philadelphians' best interests will be kept in mind. Brown emphasized the rate request was recently filed at the commission and said it is usually a thorough nine-month process with opportunities for all stakeholders to participate. Rep. Bullock asked if other utilities may use global warming as a reason for increasing their rates. Brown was not aware of the PUC having had to address that in the past. Powelson said he was not aware, either, but confirmed PGW is concerned about accelerated pipeline replacement. Place added that the conversation is often about resiliency from storms. Rep. Bullock asked who regulates substations and that process. Place said the purview is electric safety and stated that managers are in the field inspecting safety.

Rep. Bullock also requested data regarding the PUC's complement in relation to diversity. Brown said the staff is of about 460 field positions, about 55 percent of which are filled by male, with 17 percent being filled by minorities. She offered to provide a more detailed breakdown, but noted at least 40 percent of bureau directors are female, and that about 20-30 percent are of a minority group.

Rep. Kampf mentioned that in November Powelson was elected president of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners. He called this an important position for Pennsylvania.

Rep. Helm asked how the market has responded since caps were removed. Brown pointed out rate increases may not be based on the cost of the commodity alone. Regarding PPL, the area with the highest predicted increase, she reported that consumers did see a lot of savings and were able to shop among competitors. She cited a study that projected about \$118 million saved in 2016. Rep. Helm said she receives a lot of complaints about variable rates and asked if that can be addressed. Brown confirmed the PUC began to address that after the polar vortex a few years ago, which, he said, led to rate spikes. It was, she stated, addressed through emergency regulations to require more information to consumers. Further, the PUC sought to address "bad actors." She pointed out more and more products have a fixed rate.

Rep. Donatucci reviewed the penalties in the TNC law and asked if they restrict the ability of the PUC. Brown deferred to the legislature to set policy and said the \$1,000/day fine is consistent across the board in most statutes. However, she stated that in terms of drafting, there is the possibility for several interpretations of what the language means. She said the PUC has looked to the legislative journal to confirm the language is prospective and follows that policy. Brown also reviewed the temporary regulations published for limos and taxis to put them on a level playing field. Rep. Donatucci asked about the timetable for the TNC regulations. Brown pointed out permanent licenses have been issued and said the PUC is reviewing where there is a need for additional regulation.

Rep. Grove asked if the electric grid system is reliable and sufficient for capital to enter the commonwealth. Coleman referred to the work of the grid operator, PJM, and remarked "any given day is the perfect storm for PJM." He said the sense is that PJM is doing a "pretty good job" managing the grid, but they did have "a wakeup call" with the polar vortex. He continued, saying the role of affordability falls to the PUC and opined PJM has not "got that message yet." He said the PUC offers comments to PJM regularly and opined there are adequate market signals, but that there is room for improvement when there are cost overruns in construction projects. Rep. Grove pointed out one form of generation is subsidized and asked who pays for that. Coleman replied, "Customers."

Rep. Schweyer asked requested suggestions for changes to PA One Call. Coleman reiterated the commission has spent six years working to address One Call issues, which, he confirmed, stemmed from an incident in Allentown. He said the biggest issue consists of third party contractors hitting underground facilities, most of which are on the natural gas system. The PUC, he said, is looking for ways to change the paradigm and is seeking removal of the exemption that provides that class one lines do not have to be marked in the field. He lamented that during the six years, a man died after striking a line. However, he said he was optimistic that legislation can move forward to protect workers in the future. He argued it is an enforcement issue and said "taking responsibility for enforcement" can affect change and reduce line hits by fifty percent in a few years.

Rep. Everett asked about the proposed severance tax and the interplay with the existing impact fee, which is overseen by the PUC. Brown responded the PUC does not have specific details on the tax, but noted the commission is agnostic about any type of tax and will do whatever is required by the legislature.

Rep. Kim discussed the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards (AEPS) and asked how the lower cost of wind and solar affects the mandate to provide the cheapest electricity for the commonwealth. Place noted the commission does not oversee generation but remarked on the benefits of discussing energy diversity. He argued that it is beneficial to the system. Regarding subsidies, he suggested they constitute a sound economic policy to incentivize production and improve air quality.

Rep. Kim also reviewed energy efficiency programs offered by the PUC and asked if there has been an increase in customers seeking assistance. Place offered to provide data to the committee but said generally he is personally interested in the issue. He mentioned that the agenda at tomorrow's PUC meeting will include a motion addressing whether customer assistance programs are affordable and sustainable.

Rep. Kim also noted the proposed minimum wage increase and asked who pays for unpaid bills. Brown explained the customer base - ratepayers -- covers those costs in most cases.

Rep. Godshall, chairman of the Consumer Affairs Committee, said he has a problem with variable rates and asked if the commission oversees suppliers to ensure compliance with statutory and regulatory suppliers. He was also

concerned about teaser or promotional rates that are used by marketers to convince people to sign up. He recollected a number of anecdotes of customers affected by these practices, and noted that he, too, has received advertisements that are, to his mind, questionable. He opined the average ratepayer has no idea what they are paying per kilowatt and take promises of rate reductions at face value. He called this practice misleading and said he thought the PUC was going to stop that practice. Brown acknowledged ongoing efforts to address problems and said more than 400 electric suppliers are licensed in Pennsylvania. She reviewed the new disclosure requirements in place and noted the PUC's role is to ensure the market is robust while protecting consumers simultaneously. She confirmed the PUC would comply with a law prohibiting variable rates. Rep. Godshall argued the legislature never authorized variable rates in the first place. Brown countered that the legislature did provide that the marketplace shall decide, and described the PUC as following that intent. Rep. Godshall reiterated the deceptive information he receives and Brown asked that he share the materials. She noted the PUC does not necessarily approve every document, but does provide for disclosures to consumers. She declined to say if the materials are in compliance. Rep. Godshall repeated that he does not believe variable rates should be available to residential or small business consumers.

Rep. Godshall then asked if there have been complaints about the activities under One Call. Coleman said the excavators are unhappy with the current system and would like to see better enforcement and better marking in the field. He said the PUC has heard the concerns and is responding and reacting, in line with the main goal of safety. Rep. Godshall said One Call takes in approximately \$11 million and asked how much more an expansion would cost. Coleman said could not speak to that, but emphasized the commission is trying to address the enforcement issue in order to try to reduce the number of line hits. He quipped, "Everyone wins with that." Coleman offered to follow up after the meeting, but said payments by violators would offset the cost of the commission in enforcing the One Call law.

- 30 -

Press Conferences

BUDGET SECRETARY RANDY ALBRIGHT SPEAKS AT PA PRESS CLUB LUNCHEON

By Jason Gottesman, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | February 27, 2017

Gov. Tom Wolf's Budget Secretary, Randy Albright, was the featured speaker at February's Pennsylvania Press Club luncheon where he reiterated information from his pre-budget address briefing in defense of the governor's FY 2017-2018 budget proposal.

Focusing on the savings that will help close a projected \$3 billion deficit, Sec. Albright noted the governor's proposed budget puts forward \$2.1 billion in cost-savings and efficiencies that will save lawmakers the need to go back to taxpayers to foot the budget bill in the way of broad-based tax increases.

Starting with looking at where budgets have been, Sec. Albright noted efforts to balance budgets using one-time revenue sources and putting off the funding of obligations has caused the Commonwealth serious financial harm by increasing the pension debt to \$62 billion and a \$650 million shortfall for the current year, which he said will balloon to \$1.2 billion in the coming fiscal year.

Despite the budgetary difficulties, he said, the governor and General Assembly have worked together to provide a \$640 million increase in education investment, phase out the Capital Stock and Franchise Tax which put Pennsylvania at a competitive difficulty with other states in attracting businesses, implemented successes in the governor's GO-TIME initiative that reaped the Commonwealth \$150 million in savings and projections to save \$500 million in recurring expenditures by 2020.

Discussing the current fiscal year, Sec. Albright noted, while lawmakers agreed to a \$1.3 billion revenue package with \$650 million in recurring revenue, they did not forecast the revenue downturn that has occurred that has contributed to the current budgetary shortfall for the current and coming fiscal years.

He noted the governor has taken the approach of not repeating past mistakes by cutting education spending and transferring state obligations to county and municipal governments that have the effect of adding later state costs, but rather is taking a smart approach to budgeting that looks for savings and will not seek tax increases on Pennsylvania residents.

In detailing the \$2.1 billion in savings and efficiencies, Sec. Albright stated the governor took some steps before his budget proposal to implement several strategies that would save the Commonwealth money including requiring strict agency complement controls, dealing with management's span of control issues, and tasking the Office of Administration to reorganize agencies to better work within smaller complements.

He added the governor has also announced the closure of SCI Pittsburgh and has put forward program consolidations in seeking the combining of the Department of Corrections and the Board of Probation and Parole and also seeking the combining of the Departments of Health, Human Services, Aging, and Drug and Alcohol Programs into a unified Department of Health and Human Services based on the federal model and the models put forward in other states.

Sec. Albright articulated the governor hopes to save \$171 million from current program changes, like looking at the effectiveness and application process of tax credits and eliminating the \$30 million state subsidy to the Veterinarian School at the University of Pennsylvania.

In terms of other ways the administration has planned on bringing in additional dollars, Sec. Albright noted the governor put forward \$800 million in fiscal policy and revenue enhancements like increasing the minimum wage to \$12 per hour, a move he said could bring in \$95 million. He also said the proposed lease-leaseback of the Farm Show Complex could net the Commonwealth \$200 million in the coming fiscal year.

Additionally, Sec. Albright said the administration is asking administrative agencies to turn themselves "upside down" looking for cost-savings initiatives and efficiencies. As part of innovative ways to bring in dollars, the administration has put forward a \$25 per capita fee on municipalities using State Police coverage as their primary police force, which he said is still well below the \$234 per person rate that it costs the State Police to provide the coverage. He added it is also lower than the \$100 per person suggested by a private consultant, noting the \$25 fee is in line with other states and not overly onerous.

Sec. Albright added the administration has also put forward lowering the school district transportation reimbursement by \$50 million to try to incentivize more cost-effective behavior on the part of school districts in terms of bidding for transportation costs.

Finally, Sec. Albright touched on the more than \$1 billion in recurring revenue proposed by the governor in his address that is led by \$600 million from a severance tax levied at a 6.5 percent rate with an impact fee credit. He also noted additional revenue can be brought in through fixing the Commonwealth's law on Net Operating Losses and closing other tax loopholes.

In response to questions, Sec. Albright stated more needs to be done to try and provide more job-ready education that is tailored with a customized delivery system where students graduate ready to meet the needs of employers. He added the administration is working to connect with the employer community to better understand their needs.

Discussing the minimum wage hike proposed by the governor, Sec. Albright said the \$95 million in savings does not include what will happen when families not currently making a living wage get off of state benefits, which studies have put at saving the federal government \$560 annually and the Commonwealth \$250 million annually.

He added that there is currently no plan to have opioid manufacturers pay a fee that would go toward treatment options for addicts and said the governor was not trying to be proscriptive in his proposal and hopes to work with legislators and stakeholders to enact a budget proposal better than the one the governor put forward earlier this month.

Discussing fiscal policy, Sec. Albright noted flat-lining line items is considered a cut due to inflationary concerns and the need to fund higher spending obligations. He also said the governor did not propose such savings and consolidations in his previous budget because additional upfront investment was needed to ensure long-term savings.

The next Pennsylvania Press Club Luncheon is scheduled for March 27 where Congressman Charlie Dent will be the featured speaker.

###

Upcoming Events

PA Turnpike Commission

March 7, 2017 - 10:00 a.m. Turnpike Admin. Bldg, Large Board Room, 700 S. Eisenhower Blvd., 3rd Fl., Middletown
Commission Meeting. For additional information: (717) 831-7333

House Appropriations

March 9, 2017 - 10:00 a.m., Room 140 Main Capitol
Budget Hearing - Budget Secretary - Office of the Governor/Executive Offices

Senate Appropriations

March 9, 2017 - 1:00 p.m., Hearing Room 1, North Office Building
Budget Hearing - Budget Secretary/Secretary of Administration/Governor's Executive Office

House Appropriations

March 9, 2017 - 2:00 p.m., Room 140 Main Capitol
Budget Hearing - Member Testimony

Senate Appropriations

March 10, 2017 - 10:00 a.m., Hearing Room 1, North Office Building
Budget Hearing - Possible continuation for the Budget Secretary/Secretary of Administration/Governor's Executive Office

PA Public Utility Commission

March 16, 2017 - 10:00 a.m. Commonwealth Keystone Building, Hearing Room 1, 400 North St., Harrisburg
Public Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-1740

Session Schedule

Senate

March 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29
April 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26
May 8, 9, 10, 22, 23, 24
June 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

Senate budget hearings

March 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

House

March 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22
April 3, 4, 5, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26
May 8, 9, 10, 22, 23, 24
June 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

House budget hearings

March 6, 7, 8, 9

In the News

- 03-02-2017 [Report: REAL ID Non-Compliance Could Cost Pennsylvanians Nearly \\$1 Billion](#)
(Press Release)
- 03-02-2017 [Motorcyclists Encouraged to Take Free Courses, Start Riding Season Safely](#)
(Press Release)
- 03-02-2017 [I-70 bridge closure postponed until next week](#)
PennDOT has postponed closure of the Center Avenue bridge that crosses Interstate 70 in New

Stanton until Monday, a date that is subject to favorable weather and completion of utility relocations. The closure, originally anticipated this week, will allow crews to demolish... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

03-02-2017

[Route 356 work in Allegheny Township will do more than widen lanes](#)

When a PennDOT contractor starts work next year on Route 356 in Allegheny Township, they're going to be doing far more than adding more lanes. Township residents learned Wednesday night that the major work will also make the road straighter as it starts at the Freeport Bridge and climbs a... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

03-02-2017

[Marcellus Shale exports from Philly jump in 2016](#)

The number of ships exporting Marcellus Shale natural-gas liquids out of Philadelphia's port quintupled in 2016, according to the Maritime Exchange, reflecting an increased flow of propane and other materials through Sunoco Logistics Partners' Marcus Hook terminal.... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

03-02-2017

[Wind leads to restrictions on Pennsylvania Turnpike](#)

READING, Pa. The forecast of powerful winds has led officials to issue travel restrictions on the Pennsylvania Turnpike... - [AP](#)

03-02-2017

[Weaning state police off Motor License Fund will fund \\$2.1B in road improvements](#)

A cap on how much gasoline tax and driver revenue can be used to pay for the state police could result in \$2.1 billion worth of road improvements over the next decade. Gov. Tom Wolf announced this week that the Department of Transportation plans to use the proceeds from a change to the state's fiscal code last... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

03-02-2017

[New pay-by-phone parking service starts in Harrisburg](#)

HARRISBURG--Harrisburg's new pay by phone parking service went into effect Wednesday, but there were some glitches with the transition. Parking officials were not able to update all the signs with the new provider's parking zone information by end of business Wednesday. But a... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

03-02-2017

[Devil in details of Trump's infrastructure plan](#)

President Donald Trump painted a sparkling picture in Tuesday night's speech of the infrastructure projects he envisions: crumbling roads will be repaired, deficient bridges rebuilt, and the airports he dismissed during the campaign as reminiscent of the Third World soon will be gleaming.... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)

03-02-2017

[Who controls our budget spending in Pennsylvania?](#)

Editor: I'm tired of watching Pennsylvania Cable Network because the state senators and representatives are crying that they don't know where they are going to get the money to run the state. Recently, I was reading about the chairman of the Pennsylvania Turnpike... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)

03-02-2017

[Liam Migdail-Smith: How will Trump pay for his infrastructure plan?](#)

President Donald Trump has made it clear he wants to build things. In his first address to Congress this week, the freshly elected Republican said he'll ask lawmakers to OK a \$1 trillion infrastructure overhaul. "Another Republican President, Dwight D. Eisenhower, initiated the last... - [Reading Eagle](#)

03-02-2017

[Wind leads to restrictions on Pa. Turnpike](#)

READING, Pa. (AP) — The forecast of powerful winds has led officials to issue travel restrictions on the Pennsylvania Turnpike... - [AP](#)

03-02-2017

[Hanna addresses property taxes, more](#)

LOCK HAVEN — Property taxes were a clear point of focus Wednesday night during state Rep. and Minority Whip Michael K. Hanna Sr.'s town hall meeting at the Red Eye Center. "I believe something will pass in this two-year cycle," Hanna, D-Lock Haven, said regarding the subject and warned of the dangers of... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)

03-02-2017

[New Jersey Area Rising Around Transit Hub Lacks One Thing: Its Hub](#)

For those living in what has essentially become a train station desert, traveling is often an aggravating slog. "Right now, it's an hour and a half minimum getting to New York from my home in North Brunswick," said Jaideep Desai, 50, who works as a project manager in New York City. He moved here from Jersey City after... - [New York Times](#)

03-02-2017

[Lyft Is Said to Seek New Funding as Its Rival Uber Stumbles](#)

Lyft, the second-largest ride hailing company in the United States, is trying to raise more money just as Uber, its bigger rival, grapples with questions about its culture and leadership. Lyft is talking with investors about new fund-raising that would put the... - [New York Times](#)

03-02-2017

[Gov. Brown asks Trump to reverse course and let California have rail funds](#)

Gov. Jerry Brown has asked the Trump administration to reverse itself on a key decision to withhold a \$647-million grant for a state passenger rail project, a request that comes two weeks after other California Democrats waded into the fray. In a letter this week to Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, Brown... - [Los Angeles Times](#)

03-02-2017

[Comitta announces more than \\$2.7 million in state funding for local roads and bridges](#)

WEST CHESTER >> State Rep. Carolyn Comitta, D-156, announced Tuesday that a total of \$2.27 million in liquid fuels payments will be released to help municipalities in the district maintain roads and bridges. "These funds are vital to helping our local municipalities maintain the... - [West Chester Daily Local News](#)

03-02-2017

[Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission plans two construction projects in Lower Makefield](#)

Not one, but two construction projects are expected to be up and going by early 2018 in the area around the Interstate-95 interchange at Taylorsville Road in Lower Makefield. Both projects will be financed by the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission. The first is the previously announced construction of a new, dual-span \$430... - [Levittown Bucks County Courier Times](#)

03-02-2017

[Great Lakes Commission: Billions needed for water upgrades](#)

ANN ARBOR, Mich. A Great Lakes organization wants governments in the U.S. and Canada to fund massive infrastructure upgrades to provide safe drinking water and support waterborne freight transport... - [AP](#)

03-02-2017

[Wolf plan would invest \\$2B in Pa. roads, bridges](#)

HARRISBURG — The governor laid out a plan this week that would have PennDOT investing more than \$2 billion in roadway maintenance and highway and bridge... - [Bloomsburg Press Enterprise](#)

03-02-2017

[Road funds given](#)

Butler County municipalities will be getting a bit more money from the state this year to help fix their roads. Overall, the state will be disbursing nearly \$21 million more this year than the \$445 million it distributed in 2016. The money, which represents a... - [Butler Eagle](#)

03-02-2017

[LCTA, COLTS join on monthly bus pass](#)

Public bus riders in Lackawanna and Luzerne counties can buy a new monthly bus pass to ride anywhere on the two counties' transit systems in a program that started Wednesday. The County of Lackawanna Transit System and the Luzerne County Transportation Authority jointly announced Monday the launch of a 31-day... - [Hazleton Standard-Speaker](#)

- 03-02-2017 [**Adams County bridge to close for replacement**](#)
 The Black Lane bridge will be out of commission for the next several months. Deemed structurally deficient, the bridge near the Conewago-Oxford township line will undergo a replacement project that will last close to six months, according to a Tuesday news release from the Pennsylvania Department of... - [*Hanover Evening Sun*](#)
- 03-02-2017 [**PennDOT: \\$16 million for York County in 2017**](#)
 The state Department of Transportation will distribute more than \$16 million to York County municipalities in 2017 to help maintain roads and bridges, according to a PennDOT news release. The money is part of nearly \$466.2 million in liquid fuel payments PennDOT... - [*York Dispatch*](#)
- 03-02-2017 [**Route 93 detour still in question**](#)
 The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation recently unveiled its plan to reduce truck crashes along Route 93 at the base of the Broad Mountain by banning trucks entirely. But a pair of state legislators question the need to include traffic traveling up the hill as part of the ban.... - [*Lehighon Times News*](#)
- 03-02-2017 [**The first new marine terminal in 50 years on the Delaware River opens in Paulsboro**](#)
 Linda Loyd The sun shone brightly on Paulsboro Thursday, where the first ship, the Doric Warrior, was docked at the new Paulsboro Marine Terminal on the Delaware River and 55,000 tons of steel slabs were being unloaded, headed to mills in Western Pennsylvania and Indiana.... - [*Philadelphia Inquirer*](#)
- 03-01-2017 [**State uses little-publicized change to fiscal code to add \\$2.1 billion to roads, bridges over 10 years**](#)
 Pennsylvania will use a little-publicized change in the state fiscal code as part of the 2016-17 budget to fund \$2.1 billion in additional road and bridge repairs over a 10-year period beginning in 2018-19. Gov. Tom Wolf announced the new program, known as Road Maintenance and... - [*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*](#)
- 03-01-2017 [**Airports, legal volunteers prepare for new Trump travel ban**](#)
 SEATTLE — Airport officials and civil rights lawyers around the country are getting ready for President Donald Trump's new travel ban — mindful of the chaos that accompanied his initial executive order but hopeful the forthcoming version will be rolled out in a more orderly way... - [*AP*](#)
- 03-01-2017 [**Pittsburgh airport CEO to make pitch for federal funds before Congress**](#)
 Allegheny County Airport Authority CEO Christina Cassotis will testify before Congress on Wednesday, making a pitch for increased federal funding for infrastructure needs at medium-sized airports like Pittsburgh International, the authority announced. The hearing before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on... - [*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*](#)
- 03-01-2017 [**Westmoreland County gets \\$14 million from Pennsylvania's fuel tax for local roadwork**](#)
 It's pay day for Pennsylvania municipalities, which on Wednesday will receive more than \$466 million in state funding for local roads. Nearly \$14 million is headed to Westmoreland County communities. The statewide figure and the county's subtotal represent a roughly 5... - [*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*](#)
- 03-01-2017 [**\\$2 billion now available for PA's highways, roads, and bridges**](#)
 PennDot will spend \$2 billion on road maintenance and highway and bridge projects in the next decade, Pennsylvania's governor announced Tuesday. The money will help modernize Pennsylvania's aging infrastructure, Governor Wolf said in a news release Tuesday. Half of the state's 40,000 miles of... - [*Philadelphia Inquirer*](#)

- 03-01-2017 [**Amtrak, SEPTA chug toward full wheelchair access with Paoli upgrades**](#)
 Plans for major upgrades at a key SEPTA and Amtrak station on the Main Line were stuck in their tracks for more than two decades, but on Tuesday, a row of golden shovels in a box of dirt sparkled in the sun during a groundbreaking ceremony symbolizing that the work finally was underway.... - [*Philadelphia Inquirer*](#)
- 03-01-2017 [**Gov. Wolf responds to Trump address**](#)
 Gov. Tom Wolf late Tuesday night responded to President Donald Trump's first address to Congress. See Wolf's full statement below: "The president's address confirmed his plan to repeal the Affordable Care Act and put in place a replacement plan that will hurt millions of... - [*Harrisburg Patriot-News*](#)
- 03-01-2017 [**PennDOT to improve Schoenersville Road traffic signals**](#)
 PennDOT plans to invest \$1.8 million to improve traffic signals and add other new motorist and pedestrian safety features to a 2-mile stretch of Schoenersville Road that sits along the border of Lehigh and Northampton counties. The project will include new signs and pavement markings, at least 15 new... - [*Allentown Morning Call*](#)
- 03-01-2017 [**Airport Authority readying 300 acres for development**](#)
 Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority officials are poised to develop nearly 300 acres of airport land into a business or industrial park, but aren't quite sure how to do it. That's why this week they're negotiating with Chicago real estate advisers Cushman & Wakefield to determine how airport land at the end of Lehigh... - [*Allentown Morning Call*](#)
- 03-01-2017 [**Centre County set to receive \\$5.5 million in liquid fuels money**](#)
 The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, through Act 89, will distribute almost \$466.2 million in liquid fuels payments to municipalities on Wednesday. And municipalities in Centre County will get a more than \$5.5 million chunk to help maintain roads and bridges.... - [*State College Centre Daily Times*](#)
- 03-01-2017 [**Centre Region COG updates CATA funding formula**](#)
 At its meeting Monday night, the Centre Region Council of Governments General Forum voted to change the Centre Area Transportation Authority funding formula. State College Borough Council had asked for a review of the Miller Formula — in use since the early '90s — which it felt didn't fairly... - [*State College Centre Daily Times*](#)
- 03-01-2017 [**Son of judge faces systemfor hit-and-run DUI crash**](#)
 WILKES-BARRE — The son of a Wilkes-Barre magisterial district judge has been charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and fleeing the scene of a crash, according to court records. Wilkes-Barre police arrested Thomas F. Malloy Jr. on DUI and related... - [*Scranton Times*](#)
- 03-01-2017 [**District judge's son faces DUI charges**](#)
 WILKES-BARRE — The son of a city district judge has been accused of driving drunk and fleeing the scene of an accident. According to court documents: Thomas Francis Malloy, 23, the son of District Judge Thomas Malloy, was arrested Feb. 20 after a crash at West Ross and South Main streets around 1... - [*Wilkes-Barre Times Leader*](#)
- 03-01-2017 [**Masontown council, police discuss purchasing license plate readers**](#)
 MASONTOWN — Borough council on Tuesday learned the cost of outfitting its police vehicles with registration plate readers that will be needed due the elimination of state issued registration stickers. Mayor Toni Petrus said the police department needs to equip two vehicles with the readers.... - [*Uniontown Herald-Standard*](#)

- 03-01-2017 [**LVA cargo traffic still taking off, squeezing facilities**](#)
Cargo traffic last month at Lehigh Valley International Airport more than doubled compared to January 2016, with 18.8 million pounds of deliveries passing through representing a 109 percent increase. That's coming off a year in which the Hanover Township, Lehigh County,... - [Easton Express-Times](#)
- 03-01-2017 [**Liquid fuels funds arrive**](#)
The amount of street paving and fixing of crumbling infrastructure is so vast that despite millions of dollars in state liquid fuels funds, officials in the three largest municipalities receiving the most disbursement say it won't go far enough. Today, 52 municipalities across Lycoming County receive their liquid fuels... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)
- 03-01-2017 [**Company lauded for ethics agrees to pay \\$1.5M for improper billing**](#)
A company that has been repeatedly honored for its ethics has reached a settlement with federal prosecutors in Philadelphia to pay \$1.5 million for improperly billing Amtrak for project management work. CH2M Hill worked on several Amtrak construction projects throughout the... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 03-01-2017 [**Centre County Municipalities to Receive \\$5.5 Million in Liquid Fuels Funds**](#)
Centre County municipalities will receive a combined \$5.5 million for road maintenance and improvement projects through Pennsylvania's Municipal Liquid Fuels Program, PennDOT announced on Monday. The funds are part of a statewide distribution of \$466.2 million in... - [State College News](#)
- 03-01-2017 [**Travis Kalanick, Uber Chief, Apologizes After Fight With Driver**](#)
SAN FRANCISCO — Travis Kalanick, the chief executive of Uber, apologized on Tuesday after a video showing him in a verbal altercation with a driver for the ride-hailing company became public. In the video, recorded this month and reported on earlier by Bloomberg, Mr.... - [New York Times](#)
- 03-01-2017 [**The surprising reason some millennials may be buying new cars**](#)
Services such as Uber and Lyft have long been pitched as a replacement for car ownership. But a new report suggests that those ride-sharing services may be giving drivers, particularly millennials, another reason to buy a car. Roughly 1 in 6 millennial car buyers — or about 15 percent of them... - [Washington Post](#)
- 03-01-2017 [**Another \\$3 million approved to fix Delaware River bridge**](#)
New Jersey Turnpike commissioners approved spending another \$3 million to repair the Delaware River bridge between the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Turnpikes, which has been closed since a crack was discovered in a beam in January. Commissioners approved a \$3 million addition to the contract with Cornell &... - [Trenton Times](#)
- 03-01-2017 [**Groundbreaking – finally – at Paoli Train Station**](#)
TREDYFFRIN >> There were many bemused looks Tuesday in the parking lot of the Paoli Train Station. The looks were not coming from commuters looking for a late train, however, but from officials of numerous agencies and governments who were on hand to mark the groundbreaking for the long-discussed Paoli Station Accessibility... - [West Chester Daily Local News](#)
- 03-01-2017 [**PennDOT plans renovation to Chester bridges**](#)
KING OF PRUSSIA >> Brace yourself, Chester motorists - and pedestrians as well. The city's bridges are about to get a facelift, and it likely will cause problems for those looking to get around in the city. PennDOT announced it will kick off a \$16.6 million project to renovate... - [Primos Delaware County Daily and Sunday Times](#)
- 03-01-2017 [**Permanent repair to damaged beam on Delaware River Bridge to begin soon**](#)

Crews will soon repair a damaged portion of the Delaware River Bridge by using a permanent splice to reconnect the fractured section, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission bridge engineer manager said Tuesday. The permanent splice is considered "the best-case scenario" for repairing a... - [Levittown Bucks County Courier Times](#)

03-01-2017

[Construction Begins On Paoli Train Station Improvements Project](#)

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (CBS) — There was a groundbreaking Tuesday for the first phase of the new Paoli Transportation Center. The \$36-million project will raise the platform with a new center island, build a pedestrian overpass, elevators and ramps, while also improving the... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)

03-01-2017

[Piper Airport needs more control of air space](#)

LOCK HAVEN — Piper Airport will need more "air easements" from surrounding properties, and City Council has hired an engineering firm to work on the project. An air easement limits how high anything can stand around the airport, particularly trees, City Manager Richard W. Marcinkevage explained at... - [Lock Haven Express](#)

03-01-2017

[Wayne Township bridge slated to be replaced](#)

'Echo Bridge' will be closed mid-March. PennDOT District 10 announced Monday that a \$1.9 million project to replace the bridge on State Route 1037 in Wayne Township in Armstrong County is slated to begin in March. A detour will be put in place in mid-March for... - [Kittanning Leader-Times](#)

03-01-2017

[Municipalities share \\$5.26M in road funds](#)

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation will distribute nearly \$466.2 million in liquid fuels payments today to certified municipalities to help them maintain roads and bridges. This distribution marks a \$20.9 million, or 5 percent, increase over the \$445.3 million distributed in 2016.... - [Indiana Gazette](#)

03-01-2017

[PennDOT allocates millions to area municipalities across four-county region](#)

Municipalities across the four-county region will receive more than \$6 million to be put toward maintaining roads and bridges as part of the state's yearly liquid fuels allocation. Act 89 allows the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to distribute nearly \$466.2 million in liquid fuels payments to municipalities on March 1... - [Bradford Era](#)

03-01-2017

[Fuel taxes help municipalities repair, plow roads](#)

Butler County municipalities will be getting a bit more money from the state this year to help fix their roads. Overall, the state will be disbursing nearly \$21 million more this year than the \$445 million it distributed in 2016 — about a 5-percent increase. The money is being released to municipalities starting today.... - [Butler Eagle](#)

03-01-2017

[CAT general manager resigns](#)

Capital Area Transit's board of directors Tuesday announced it has accepted the resignation of General Manager William Jones, effective Feb. 23. According to a news release from CAT, Jones said he was leaving CAT to "pursue other career interests and opportunities."... - [Carlisle Sentinel](#)

03-01-2017

[Capital Area Transit seeks new leader after manager resigns](#)

Capital Area Transit is looking for a new general manager after the resignation of Williams Jones, the CAT board has announced. Jones resigned effective Feb. 23 to pursue other career interests and opportunities, said the board. Jones has led CAT for nine years, and Eric Bugaile, board chairman, said... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

02-28-2017

[Governor Wolf Outlines Plan to Invest Additional \\$2.1 Billion for Highways...](#)

(Press Release)

- 02-28-2017 [**Pennsylvania Municipalities to Receive Nearly \\$466.2 Million to Invest in...**](#)
(Press Release)
- 02-28-2017 [**Takata pleads guilty in air bag scandal, agrees to pay \\$1B**](#)
DETROIT — Japanese auto parts maker Takata Corp. pleaded guilty to fraud Monday and agreed to pay \$1 billion in penalties for concealing an air bag defect blamed for at least 16 deaths, most of them in the U.S... - [AP](#)
- 02-28-2017 [**New route: County deserves the chance to go bold on transit**](#)
Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald was furious in May 2012 when inadequate staffing of the Port Authority's light-rail system forced passengers to wait 45 minutes or longer for trains during an activity-filled weekend on the North Shore. "This problem is going to... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-28-2017 [**PennDOT to preview widening plan for Route 356 near Freeport Bridge**](#)
Allegheny Township residents will have a chance to see PennDOT's plans for the truck climbing lane project to widen Route 356 near the Freeport Bridge. PennDOT officials will hold a public meeting Wednesday to unveil the plans and answer questions. The design team will have a presentation at 5:30 p.m.... - [Tarentum Valley News Dispatch](#)
- 02-28-2017 [**Tuesday takes**](#)
Spirit spreads its wings: News of Spirit Airlines beginning service this spring out of Pittsburgh International Airport prompts concerns over the carrier's long-term future at Arnold Palmer Regional Airport near Latrobe. Officials with Spirit and the Westmoreland County Airport Authority assure... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-28-2017 [**American Airlines redesignates boarding process**](#)
Airlines have taken a lot of the fun out of flying, with added fees and cramped seats. Boarding can resemble a cattle call with travelers crowding near the aircraft gate to get on. American Airlines, with a hub and more than 400 daily flights in Philadelphia, is redesignating its boarding process. Starting Wednesday,... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 02-28-2017 [**Radnor approves Villanova's controversial cross-adorned pedestrian bridge**](#)
The Radnor Township Board of Commissioners late Monday approved a controversial pedestrian bridge that would link Villanova University's main campus with a planned expansion on the southern side of Lancaster Avenue. The 6-0 decision, with board President Elaine P. Schaefer abstaining, came... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 02-28-2017 [**Christie nominates ally to Port Authority board**](#)
TRENTON, N.J. (AP) - New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie has nominated a political ally whose name came up at the George Washington Bridge lane closure trial to serve on the board of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey... - [AP](#)
- 02-28-2017 [**Riordan: Cherry Hill activist who stopped red-light cameras is on a new mission**](#)
In 2014, Cherry Hill resident Rick Short asked the right questions about New Jersey's red-light cameras. The 49-year-old father of four is so proud of his role analyzing and highlighting flaws in those much-maligned devices -- since disconnected statewide -- that the phrase "Stop Robo Cops" is still part of his... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 02-28-2017 [**Councilman Oh: City should control on-street parking**](#)
A proposal that would transfer some control of the Philadelphia Parking Authority (PPA) to the city is on hold indefinitely after the city solicitor labeled the ordinance unlawful. The ordinance, pushed by Councilman David Oh, would hand over control of on-street parking and other functions of the state-run agency to the city.... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

- 02-28-2017 [Northampton Area School District concerned that drop in transportation subsidies offsets state budget increases for education](#)
How will state budget affect Northampton school district? A decrease in transportation subsidies from the state as a result of Gov. Tom Wolf's budget proposal will result in a minimal net gain for the Northampton Area School District despite increases in special and basic... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 02-28-2017 [Panel approves Villanova bridge that has crosses](#)
VILLANOVA, Pa. Villanova University has won approval to construct a 400-foot stone bridge that will feature metal crosses on each side... - [AP](#)
- 02-28-2017 [Addressing Centre County's failing bridges to require joint effort](#)
More Centre County bridges are considered "structurally deficient" than the national average, according to the Federal Highway Administration, but county and state government officials are working to correct the problems. Pennsylvania ranks second in the nation, behind Iowa, with just more than... - [State College Centre Daily Times](#)
- 02-28-2017 [COLTS, LCTA team up on bus pass](#)
Public bus riders in Lackawanna and Luzerne counties can buy a new monthly bus pass to ride anywhere on the two transit systems, starting Wednesday. The County of Lackawanna Transit System and the Luzerne County Transportation Authority jointly announced Monday the launch of a 31-day... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 02-28-2017 [Municipalities to receive liquid fuels funds](#)
Municipalities throughout the state got some good news Monday as PennDOT announced 2017 liquid fuels payments, money that will be used for paving and other road maintenance. Wilkes-Barre will receive the highest amount in Luzerne County, getting just more than \$1.1 million. At the other end of the spectrum, tiny Jeddo... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)
- 02-28-2017 [Berks County won't provide support for Reading 120 bike race](#)
Reading, PA Berks County has withdrawn its support of the Reading 120 international bicycle race, a 122-mile professional event which ran in 2015 and 2016, bringing hundreds of cyclists and biking enthusiasts to the county. In a letter issued late Monday afternoon, the commissioners said the county... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 02-28-2017 [Editorial: City right to experiment with arena traffic](#)
The Issue: Officials get creative in trying to keep vehicles moving on their way to a big event. Our Opinion: Such efforts are essential with work getting underway on the Penn Street Bridge. City officials are on the right track with their effort to improve traffic... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 02-28-2017 [Letter: Drivers need to obey all rules of the road](#)
Editor: I was glad to see your Feb. 21 editorial, "Motorists should pay heed to latest rules of the road." It made us aware of the new rules, but it should have gone a little further. It should have reminded all drivers that they need to obey all driving laws.... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 02-28-2017 [The worst stretches of the Lehigh Valley's 30 busiest roads](#)
Here's something most Lehigh Valley motorists probably have figured out without the benefit of a scientific analysis: the region's major roads are congested. But the latest data to back that up is now in. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation last month released its newest traffic volume... - [Easton Express-Times](#)
- 02-28-2017 [Outage planned at Pittsburgh International](#)
There will be a scheduled power outage in the short-term parking garage at Pittsburgh International Airport from approximately 11 p.m. tonight until 5 a.m. Tuesday. Electrical work to

replace a transformer in the rental car area, as well as maintenance, inspection and cleaning of electrical equipment will be... - [Washington Observer-Reporter](#)

02-28-2017

[This York Twp. man is driven to take your kids to school](#)

John Polli is an upstart who is on his second run to pick up a big chunk of the school bus business. When you own a school bus company, there's a long list of things that can go wrong. Maybe your buses run late or some drivers don't show up. Or, a driver drops... - [York Daily](#)

02-28-2017

[Automakers Knew of Takata Airbag Hazard for Years, Suit Says](#)

Last summer, The New York Times reported indications that automakers, rather than being the victims of Takata's missteps, had pressed their suppliers to put cost before all else. That report focused on General Motors, which is not named in the Florida case, though plaintiff lawyers... - [New York Times](#)

02-28-2017

[Amit Singhal, Uber Executive Linked to Old Harassment Claim, Resigns](#)

The former Uber engineer Susan Fowler and other current and former employees have claimed that the company's human resources officials repeatedly ignored harassment claims about employees who were "top performers." Uber asked Eric H. Holder Jr., who served as attorney general under... - [New York Times](#)

02-28-2017

[Local bridge projects to be outlined](#)

A public meeting planned for March 13 will detail the replacement of five bridges in northern Lawrence County this year. The bridges — one in Pulaski Township and four in Wilmington Township — are to be replaced under the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's Rapid Bridge Replacement Project.... - [New Castle News](#)

02-28-2017

[Radnor board gives OK to controversial cross design on Villanova pedestrian bridge spanning Lancaster Avenue](#)

RADNOR >> After several hours of heated debate, commissioners Monday night approved four crosses that Villanova University officials plan to place on the ends of the pedestrian bridge that will span Lancaster Avenue linking the new dormitories with the main campus.... - [Primos Delaware County Daily and Sunday Times](#)

02-28-2017

[Dirty lenses can cause lengthy red lights](#)

People waiting at a red light when there is no traffic coming from the other direction may be surprised to learn that a dirty lens can cause a delay in the light turning green. "Most of the signals have video detection systems, which most likely could have a dirty lens from the winter," said Tara Callahan-Henry,... - [Somerset Daily](#)

02-28-2017

[PennDOT To Announce Highway Maintenance And Preservation Initiative](#)

HARRISBURG (CBS) — The state's transportation secretary told lawmakers on Monday that PennDOT will announce a major highway maintenance and preservation effort. Appearing at Senate Budget hearings Monday, PennDOT Secretary Leslie Richards told lawmakers about PennDOT's new "RoadMaP"... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)

02-28-2017

[Ignition interlock devices likely saved numerous lives in 2016](#)

We've seen it far too many times. An innocent person has his or her life taken because he or she happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time and was killed in a crash involving a drunk driver. It's why we rank driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol... - [Lewistown Sentinel](#)

02-28-2017

[Airport authority welcomes new member Alvin Rodgers](#)

FALLS CREEK – When it comes to financial matters, the newest member of the Clearfield-Jefferson Counties Regional Airport Authority won't have to wing it. As the chief financial officer

of Symmco, Inc. in Sykesville, Alvin Rodgers brings a financial background to the authority.... - [DuBois Courier-Express](#)

- 02-28-2017 [Airport sets Jan. boarding record](#)
 PITTSTON TWP. — The number of passengers boarding planes at Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport set a record for January, according to numbers that airport executive director Carl R. Beardsley Jr. presented at a board meeting Friday. A total of 18,826 passengers boarded planes last month, up 7.9 percent from... - [Hazleton Standard-Speaker](#)
- 02-28-2017 [\\$2 billion now available for PA's highways, roads, and bridges](#)
 PennDot will spend \$2 billion on road maintenance and highway and bridge projects in the next decade, Pennsylvania's governor announced Tuesday. The money will help modernize Pennsylvania's aging infrastructure, Governor Wolf said in a news release Tuesday. Half of the state's 40,000 miles of... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 02-27-2017 [Municipalities to Receive Nearly \\$466.2 Million to Invest in Local Roads, 5%...](#)
 (Press Release)
- 02-27-2017 [Senate Appropriations - Department of Transportation \(PennDOT\)](#)
 (Testimony)
- 02-27-2017 [PennDOT to involve communities earlier in road, bridge work](#)
 The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation is starting a new program regarding road and bridge projects that would involve local communities earlier in the process. Under PennDOT Connects, announced last week, residents and officials will be able to help the department develop plans before they get to the design... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-27-2017 [Next round of Glenwood Bridge interchange construction begins today](#)
 The spaghetti-like configuration of the Glenwood Bridge interchange will go through another major change Monday when construction resumes on a major rehabilitation project. The \$16.9 million project is concentrated where Route 885 and Route 837 come together in Pittsburgh's South Side and Hays neighborhoods, West... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-27-2017 [Road worriers: Careless drivers, young and old, are a menace](#)
 In recent years, we've heard a lot about the rising number of millennials who never bother to learn how to drive. They're the first generation of Americans since automobiles rolled off the assembly lines of Detroit to have no interest in the teenage ritual of securing driver's... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-27-2017 [Roadwork ahead: Rebuilding I-83 around Harrisburg means a decade or more of construction](#)
 HARRISBURG -- Over the next decade-plus the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation will undertake a \$1 billion rebuilding of much of the eastern Capital Beltway. In a series of projects -- one right after the other -- the department will rebuild and widen much of Interstate 83 in the Harrisburg area, a massive... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 02-27-2017 [Drunk mom urged daughter, 8, to blow in anti-DUI device to start her car, police claim](#)
 State police at Chambersburg said Monday that a woman who had a device on her car that blocked her from drinking and driving had urged her 8-year-old daughter blow into that machine so she could start the vehicle. Then, they said, Angela L. Daywalt crashed the car with her daughter... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 02-27-2017 [Flight from AVP returned for landing gear malfunction](#)
 PITTSTON TWP. — Destined for sunny Florida, Lois Reimel of Montrose had just settled into her 28-minute flight to Philadelphia, where she planned to catch a connection. But 15 minutes

later, a voice from the cockpit alerted the cabin full of 33 people that they were turning around.... - [Scranton Times](#)

02-27-2017

[Is it time to update state law on broadband?](#)

Even though some rural residents express frustration with finding an option for internet access, officials say the requirements of a state law guaranteeing universal broadband access are being met. A state law known as Chapter 30 required telecommunications providers to... - [York Daily](#)

02-27-2017

[Rail keeps firm competitive](#)

By Sarah DeSantis THE NEWS-ITEM sarah_d@newsitem.com Part 2 of 2 COAL TOWNSHIP — Like roadways, many improvements to rail lines are paid for by the state. Private and public rail entities compete against each other for grant funding. - [Shamokin News-Item](#)

02-27-2017

[Rebuilding I-83: Here are the seven phases of construction \(video\)](#)

The state Department of Transportation has embarked on a massive project to rebuild Interstate 83 around Harrisburg, something that will take the next decade or longer. In this video, we'll explain the work that's been done, and the phases of construction you'll see in the years ahead.... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

02-27-2017

[Late officer's name proposed for bridge](#)

The late Lt. Nathaniel "Nate" Akins grew up on the impoverished streets of New Castle's West Side. Eventually, he escaped them — but he always refused to leave them behind. Akins, who passed away last year, retired from New Castle's police department in 2014 after a 29-year career during which he never missed a... - [New Castle News](#)

02-27-2017

[Trail sense](#)

All along the Slippery Rock Creek in McConnells Mill State Park, signs warn of the potentially lethal dangers that await anyone foolish enough to enter the water. The truth is, though, it's not the rushing water that puts park visitors at risk. It is the visitors themselves. Over the years, many have... - [New Castle News](#)

02-27-2017

[Missing: Donald Trump's Trillion-Dollar Infrastructure Plan](#)

Which of Donald Trump's many campaign promises would bring real benefits to the economy? Which would almost certainly win support even among people who voted against him? And which seems to have disappeared completely from the White House radar? The answer to all three questions is Mr. Trump's pledge to put his... - [New York Times](#)

02-27-2017

[Opinion | Road fatalities are soaring. Here's how to stop that.](#)

U.S. ROADWAYS in 2016 yielded another bumper crop of carnage as vehicle fatalities soared 6 percent, following a 7?percent jump in 2015 — the biggest two-year spike since the 1960s. The cost of deaths, injuries and property damage resulting from crashes also leaped by 12 percent in just a... - [Washington Post](#)

02-27-2017

[Mine subsidence closes Conemaugh Township road](#)

Route 4037 (Veterans Street) in Conemaugh Township, Somerset County has been closed to traffic due to mine subsidence under the roadway in one lane. According to a release from PennDOT, the roadway will remain closed until further evaluation can be made to determine a solution.... - [Johnstown Tribune-Democrat](#)

02-27-2017

[Verizon and Aqua Pennsylvania to restrict two state highways](#)

KING OF PRUSSIA >> Travel restrictions are scheduled on Horace Avenue in Montgomery County and Route 252 (Valley Forge Road) in Chester County, for utility installations, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) announced Tuesday. Weather permitting, the work schedule is:... - [Phoenixville News](#)

- 02-27-2017 [**Darts & Laurels: Another tough week for SEPTA**](#)
 A look at the week that was, the issues and people who made headlines, and a few darts and laurels for those who deserve them. DART: To SEPTA, another serious snafu on the regional rails. Let's see, last summer it was their new Silverliner V fleet shut down because of... - [Primos Delaware County Daily and Sunday Times](#)
- 02-27-2017 [**Lancaster County's bridges need more attention from legislators**](#)
 THE ISSUE According to The National Bridge Inventory, recently published by the Federal Highway Administration, 300 bridges in Lancaster County are either structurally deficient and in need of repair or they are obsolete. About 180 bridges or 23 percent of the bridges here are designated structurally... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 02-27-2017 [**Parking Authority Grants Licenses To Uber, Lyft**](#)
 PHILADELPHIA (CBS) — Ride-sharing services Uber and Lyft finally have their licenses to operate legally in Philadelphia. The Parking Authority Board approved the licenses at Friday's meeting. After years of feuding, debates, public hearings, and legislation, the vote... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)
- 02-27-2017 [**New PennDOT Program Lends Voice To Communities In Early Project Planning**](#)
 PHILADELPHIA (CBS) — PennDOT has a new approach. The agency says it's going to listen to locals first, before putting shovels in the ground. Local neighborhoods have wants and needs associated with any PennDOT project. Now, PennDOT plans to meet with local governments and planning... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)
- 02-27-2017 [**Councilman Oh: City should control on-street parking**](#)
 A proposal that would transfer some control of the Philadelphia Parking Authority (PPA) to the city is on hold indefinitely after the city solicitor labeled the ordinance unlawful. The ordinance, pushed by Councilman David Oh, would hand over control of on-street parking and other functions of the state-run agency to the city.... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 02-27-2017 [**Appeals court won't put Trump's travel ban case on hold**](#)
 A federal appeals court on Monday denied a request from the U.S. Justice Department to put President Donald Trump's travel ban case on hold until he issues a new executive order... - [AP](#)
- 02-26-2017 [**Port Authority says it won't use racial profiling when T system goes cashless**](#)
 Although it's still putting together its enforcement policy for when the light-rail system goes cashless in July, Port Authority said Friday it does not intend to use racial profiling or other methods to identify illegal immigrants. The authority explained its plans after a handful of riders expressed... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-26-2017 [**Port Authority forces out McLean, seeks executive with more transit experience**](#)
 Ellen McLean, who steered Port Authority through tough financial times over the past four years, will be out as chief executive officer as the agency and Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald begin a national search for a leader with more public transit experience.... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-26-2017 [**Port Authority forces out McLean, seeks executive with more transit experience**](#)
 Ellen McLean, who steered Port Authority through tough financial times over the past four years, will be out as chief executive officer as the agency and Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald begin a national search for a leader with more public transit experience.... - [PTGAZ](#)
- 02-26-2017 [**'That '70s Show,' UAW-style: 'Buy Union' in disguise**](#)
 A new United Auto Workers "Buy American" TV ad campaign harkening back to such UAW spots of the late 1970s and 1980s would be overly simplistic and unlikely to resonate with 21st-century vehicle buyers. UAW President Dennis Williams says he's "in discussions" about

such... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

- 02-26-2017 [Starting in March, you can use any door to exit an Allegheny County Port Authority bus](#)
Port Authority of Allegheny County bus riders will be able to exit from any door starting March 1 — a request riders and drivers have made repeatedly since major fare changes took effect Jan. 1 Among other changes, the authority started requiring riders to enter in the... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-26-2017 [Planners approach Arnold Palmer Regional Airport expansion with caution](#)
When Arnold Palmer Regional Airport expanded in 1998, planners anticipated serving about 20,000 travelers a year flying on planes that would accommodate up to 30 passengers each. Nearly two decades later, the airport terminal sees roughly 300,000 passengers annually on planes that can seat... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-26-2017 [Letters to the Editor 2/25/2017](#)
TIMES-TRIBUNE FILE A traffic direction sign along the 2000 block of Green Ridge Street in Dunmore, near South Blakely Street, stands in the middle of the sidewalk. The situation was highlighted in December in Something Should Be Done, a Sunday Times feature. A writer says complaints to PennDOT about... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 02-26-2017 [Our view: A lesson to be learned in fate of Coxtion bridge](#)
It's a gem turned eyesore turned life-threatening danger. It is, in other words, an example of so many things done wrong with old structures in Luzerne County. "It" is the Coxtion Railroad bridge, a classic steel-truss-bridge span of multiple sections resting on stone piers jutting up from the... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)
- 02-26-2017 [Cheers and Jeers](#)
Cheers to the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority Board for reversing its earlier vote and agreeing to take ownership of the dangerous Coxtion Railroad Bridge for \$1, clearing the way for a \$1 million grant to demolish the deteriorating, abandoned span. There is minimal risk for the authority,... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)
- 02-26-2017 [Editorial: All should do their part to reduce roadway fatalities](#)
The most common causes of crashes are easily avoidable if motorists take basic safety precautions. - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 02-26-2017 [Taken for a ride on NJ Transit: I pity the poor commuter who deals with this daily | Mulshine](#)
I see that NJ Transit Executive Director Stephen Santoro is holding sessions around the state to solicit suggestions from riders on how to improve service. Here's a suggestion: Run trains from the beginning of your routes to the end. Stop at the stations along those routes so passengers can get on and... - [Trenton Times](#)
- 02-24-2017 [The DOTcom, February 2017 - PennDOT's Quarterly Newsletter](#)
(Press Release)
- 02-24-2017 [After resigning from Turnpike Commission, Logan hired by Gaming Control Board](#)
Former state Sen. Sean Logan swapped one state appointment for another Thursday and got a substantial raise to go along with it. Mr. Logan, 46, of Plum resigned as chairman of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission and immediately was appointed to the Pennsylvania Gaming Control... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-24-2017 [Port Authority to sell Robinson property to private developer](#)
After Port Authority was unable to close the sale of nearly 8 acres in Robinson to a Washington County company, the agency has reached a deal with another firm. An authority committee last

week recommended the full board approve the sale of 7.76 acres on Montour Church Road to Montour Run Holdings LLC for... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

- 02-24-2017 [Hot slag sloppiness: Two previous fires on Liberty Bridge? Too much](#)
The Joseph B. Fay Co. needs to watch its employees more closely, and the state Department of Transportation needs to keep better tabs on its contractors, at least the ones whose missteps have the potential to collapse major bridges. During an \$80 million overhaul of the Liberty Bridge late last summer, hot... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-24-2017 [\\$805K grant earmarked for Palmer airport runway](#)
The Westmoreland County Airport Authority will use an \$805,000 state grant to help rehabilitate the apron at Arnold Palmer Regional Airport in Unity. According to authority Executive Director Gabe Monzo, the grant will cover 70 percent of the cost of improvements to the apron — the area where... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-24-2017 [Logan leaves Turnpike Commission to join Gaming Control Board](#)
Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission Chairman Sean Logan stepped down Thursday to join the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board. Logan, a former Democratic state senator from Plum, was sworn in as the newest member of the agency that oversees slot machines and casino gambling... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-24-2017 [Laurels & Lances](#)
Lance: To the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority. “It seemed like everywhere we turned at PWSA, there was a problem,” said Pittsburgh Controller Michael Lamb of his draft performance audit’s findings. Meanwhile, a PWSA main was leaking 10,000 gallons a minute and questions... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-24-2017 [Turnpike Commission unveils first steps of Plum-Monroeville widening](#)
The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission’s first projects to widen the turnpike in Plum and Monroeville will impact 23 homeowner properties, the commission said. But of the 23 properties affected, 11 homeowners will be forced to relocate. “That’s only for these projects; there’s a possibility of further... - [Tarentum Valley News Dispatch](#)
- 02-24-2017 [Trump's public projects will depend on private billions](#)
Before you buy the shovels, call the bankers. President Trump promised to “fix our inner cities and rebuild our highways, bridges, tunnels, airports, schools, hospitals” — and put “millions of our people to work” — but state and city officials haven’t progressed too far... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 02-24-2017 [Pa Turnpike chief steps down](#)
Sean Logan, CEO of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission since 2015, resigned Thursday to pursue an unnamed public service job, the commission reported in a release. Logan, from Plum, Pa., listed as his accomplishments a 70-mph speed limit along the 552-mile toll road, a still ongoing widening project, and a... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 02-24-2017 [Pa. Turnpike Commission chairman resigns, joins state Gaming Control Board](#)
Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission chairman Sean Logan has resigned his post, effective immediately. He will join the state’s Gaming Control Board at a salary of \$145,000, according to the Pittsburgh Tribune Review. His salary with Turnpike commission was \$28,500.... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 02-24-2017 [Plan to repair to 3 old bridges in Scranton advances](#)
Scranton and the state Department of Transportation plan to reconstruct three old bridges in the city — the West Lackawanna Avenue, Elm Street and North Main Avenue bridges, officials said Thursday. City council introduced legislation to authorize cost-sharing and... - [Scranton Times](#)

- 02-24-2017 [**DARTdrones signs training deal with pilots association**](#)
 JESSUP — Drone pilot training company DARTdrones has won a contract with a national pilots association to offer its members free and discounted training. Following the deal, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association members may take free beginner drone piloting online courses and receive discounts on select... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 02-24-2017 [**Your view: Oppose radar/lidar for local police departments**](#)
 I urge all state senators and representatives to vigorously oppose SB279 and SB251, which will allow local police departments to use radar and lidar. Enacting these bills will spawn a huge increase in speed traps in cash-strapped municipalities desperate for more money at the expense of... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)
- 02-24-2017 [**Erie airport approves employee contract**](#)
 The Erie Regional Airport Authority has approved a new contract with about a dozen airfield, terminal and custodial staff. The contract is retroactive to Jan. 1 and includes a 1-percent pay raise this year for workers represented by the American Federation of State... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 02-24-2017 [**Erie airport seeks more flights and destinations**](#)
 Airlines serving Erie have agreed to consider adding services. Erie International Airport officials are asking airlines to add flights and destinations for Erie travelers. United Airlines, which now provides Erie-Chicago O'Hare service, has agreed to consider adding more Erie-Chicago flights and providing service between... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 02-24-2017 [**Pittsburgh International Airport gets \\$2.4 million in state funds**](#)
 FINDLAY TWP. -- Pittsburgh International Airport on Thursday received \$2.4 million in state funding, money that will help the airport rehabilitate runways and market itself to regional airports. According to a release from Gov. Tom Wolf, Pittsburgh International was one... - [Beaver County Times](#)
- 02-24-2017 [**Long wait for Mon-Fayette completion, not so much for I-79 widening**](#)
 Finishing the Mon-Fayette Expressway probably will take a couple of more decades, but improvements to Interstate 79 in Cecil and South Fayette townships are well on the way. A public meeting Thursday at Peters Township Municipal Building provided details for two major regional transportation projects, with the end date... - [Washington Observer-Reporter](#)
- 02-24-2017 [**Pa.'s bridges 3rd most 'structurally deficient' in US. Here's why that's not all bad news.**](#)
 Construction occurs on the Rt. 194 bridge over Bermudian Creek in Washington Township, York County. A January PennDOT report showed the bridge qualified as "structurally deficient." Work is scheduled to be completed in April 2018 and will cost \$2.25 million.(Photo: Joel Shannon,... - [York Daily](#)
- 02-24-2017 [**Sound barriers going up at I-83 Mount Rose project**](#)
 Employees with Tutor Perini construction company use a crane to put in a sound wall along the southbound lane of Interstate 83. The construction is taking place south of the Mount Rose interchange on the west side and is being put in place to help limit the traffic noise along residential... - [York Daily](#)
- 02-24-2017 [**Airport-St. Francis aviation business program receives \\$1.9M grant**](#)
 An aviation business degree program developed by St. Francis University and Nulton Aviation will take off next year with a \$1.9 million boost. Go. Tom Wolf announced Thursday that the program through John Murtha Johnstown-Cambria County Airport will receive the state Multimodal Fund... - [Johnstown Tribune-Democrat](#)
- 02-24-2017 [**Reason to change**](#)

If you want commercial trucks to consider switching fuel from diesel to natural gas, you need to remove the economic barriers. A fully-fueled natural gas truck can weigh close to 2,000 pounds more than a similar truck that is filled with diesel fuel. - [Somerset Daily](#)

02-24-2017

[Officials hope new Route 219 is a boon to business](#)

With four-lane Route 219 on track to be completed by next summer, many are focusing on the positive impacts the highway could have on Somerset County, such as economic development. The 11-mile section will expand the highway from Somerset to Meyersdale. It is the largest road project in Somerset County in the last 40 years.... - [Somerset Daily](#)

02-24-2017

[Cambria County airport, university receive state funding for degree program](#)

The John Murtha Johnstown-Cambria County Airport in Richland Township received a \$1.9 million state grant Thursday to support a new aviation degree program at Saint Francis University. The funding will support the development of a business aviation management... - [Somerset Daily](#)

02-24-2017

[Lane restrictions scheduled in Montgomery County for utility construction](#)

UPPER MERION >> The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) has announced that lane restrictions are scheduled on Plank Road, Meyers Road, Route 73 (Skippack Pike) and Route 29 (Gravel Pike) in Perkiomen and Skippack townships for utility construction.... - [Phoenixville News](#)

02-24-2017

[Google Self-Driving Car Unit Accuses Uber of Using Stolen Technology](#)

Waymo also said that a number of Google employees, who subsequently left to join Mr. Levandowski at Google, downloaded additional trade secrets before departing. These included supplier lists, manufacturing details and technical information, Waymo said. Anthony Levandowski, left, and Lior Ron, who founded Otto, at the... - [New York Times](#)

02-24-2017

[Google's arm for self-driving cars is accusing a former engineer of stealing trade secrets for Uber](#)

Google is suing Uber and alleging that a former employee engaged in a "concerted plan" to steal trade secrets related to the search giant's self-driving car technology. In a blog post Thursday, Google's self-driving car subsidiary, Waymo, said that a former top executive who later went to work for Uber illegally... - [Washington Post](#)

02-24-2017

[Plan would cut penalty for missing front plate](#)

Ohio lawmakers took a small step toward reducing the penalty for missing front license plates and exempted natural gas fleets from taxation in changes Thursday to the proposed state transportation budget. A House committee rejected Gov. John Kasich's proposal to extend the... - [Columbus Dispatch](#)

02-24-2017

[Abington who spewed racial threats at Pa. Turnpike toll-booth worker faces prison](#)

WEST CHESTER >> A Montgomery County man who unleashed a racially-tinged tirade at a Pennsylvania Turnpike toll-booth worker faces the possibility of jail time, after having tested positive for using marijuana prior to a recent court appearance. The man, 44-year-old Eric Scott Robb of Abington, had entered a guilty plea... - [Norristown Times Herald](#)

02-24-2017

[Pennsylvania Turnpike chairman suddenly resigns](#)

Saying he wants to pursue other public service opportunities, the chairman of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission abruptly resigned Thursday. Sean Logan of Plum, Allegheny County, announced he is resigning, effective immediately, said turnpike spokesman Carl DeFebo Jr.... - [Levittown Intelligencer](#)

02-24-2017

[Repositioning procedure to begin Friday on Delaware River Bridge in Bristol Township](#)

Crews are expected early Friday morning to begin the "very deliberate and delicate process" of

returning the Delaware River Bridge to its original position, said the Pennsylvania Turnpike's chief engineer. The structure was displaced about 2 inches after a 14-inch I-beam was... - [Levittown Intelligencer](#)

02-24-2017

[Fixed-route bus service needs a trial run here](#)

More study and demand has brought back the idea of bringing public bus service to eastern Clinton County and Greater Lock Haven from an existing route to Jersey Shore. And now we're hearing that Lock Haven may be the only sixth-class city in Pennsylvania to not have fixed-route bus service.... - [Lock Haven Express](#)

02-24-2017

[Local public bus service depends on state grant](#)

LOCK HAVEN — Public bus service could be coming to Clinton County, though not as soon as thought. In response to many public requests, the Clinton County commissioners late last year established a Public Transit Community Advisory Committee to explore the possibility of bringing public bus service to southern Clinton... - [Lock Haven Express](#)

02-24-2017

[Rails-to-trails projects include lighted 'tunnel' for hikers](#)

The Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership has nearly enough money to build a tunnel-like box culvert so that people using the Greater Hazleton Rails to Trails hiking and biking trail can safely walk where there is a truck crossing. Bob Skulsky, the Partnership's executive director, said the group has... - [Hazleton Standard-Speaker](#)

02-24-2017

[Saint Francis gets aviation grant](#)

A new aviation degree program at Saint Francis University is set to get off the ground with a \$1.9 million state grant. Rep. Frank Burns, D-Johnstown, brought the House Democratic Policy Committee to the Ebensburg Borough Municipal Building in October to listen... - [Altoona Mirror](#)

02-24-2017

[Pa. Legislature introduces autonomous vehicle testing bill](#)

A bill that would allow for autonomous vehicle testing in Pennsylvania has been introduced in the state Senate. SB427 would provide rules and regulations concerning the testing of autonomous or "driverless" vehicles in Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation last year developed policies regarding... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

02-24-2017

[Uber's terrible week gets worse; Google sues for alleged theft of self-driving technology](#)

Uber's week started with a former employee alleging she encountered systemic sexual discrimination during her time with the company. The week ended with Google filing a lawsuit against the ride-sharing service alleging the technology now fueling Uber's self-driving fleet in... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

02-24-2017

[McLean departs as CEO of Port Authority](#)

Port Authority CEO Ellen McLean is leaving the agency in June after more than four years in charge. The surprise announcement came up as new business at the end of the authority's monthly board meeting Friday morning. The board approved extending Ms. McLean's contract five months until June... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

02-24-2017

[Allegheny County Port Authority will be getting a new CEO, its board decided Friday](#)

The Allegheny County Port Authority will be getting a new CEO, its board decided Friday. The board voted Friday to renew CEO Ellen McLean's contract, but only through June 1. Her three-year contract had expired Jan. 31. Board member D. Raja voted against the motion.... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

02-24-2017

[New SEPTA schedules about to go into effect](#)

New schedules are about to go into effect on a number of SEPTA routes. Most of the changes are not major but riders on many lines should expect some new routing or timing starting

Sunday or Monday. A new bus route, 311, offers service to Willow Grove. Full details on the new schedules are available on SEPTA's website.... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

02-24-2017

[Documents: Pittsburgh bridge had 2 fires before major blaze](#)

PITTSBURGH Federal documents show that crews doused minor fires on the Liberty Bridge twice in the three days before a construction fire closed the Pittsburgh bridge for 24 days in September.... - [AP](#)

02-24-2017

[Homicide defendant gets bond in Carrick case involving Uber rider](#)

A Carrick man accused of killing another from inside an Uber car earlier this month will be allowed pre-trial release pending trial. Derek Vasos, 37, was granted release to electronic home monitoring on Friday by Allegheny County Common Pleas Judge Jeffrey A. Manning.... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

02-24-2017

[Port Authority CEO makes surprise departure](#)

Port Authority CEO Ellen McLean is leaving the agency in June after more than four years in charge. The surprise announcement came up as new business at the end of the authority's monthly board meeting Friday morning. The board approved extending Ms. McLean's contract five months until June... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

02-24-2017

[Republican lawmakers introduce bills to curb protesting in at least 18 states](#)

Since the election of President Trump, Republican lawmakers in at least 18 states have introduced or voted on legislation to curb mass protests in what civil liberties experts are calling "an attack on protest rights throughout the states." From Virginia to Washington state, legislators have introduced bills that... - [Washington Post](#)