

# PA Transportation Recap



## IN THIS ISSUE

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### Bill Actions

**N** [HB 1661](#)

[Metzgar, Carl\(R\)](#)

(PN 2333) The Clean Vehicles Investment Plan Act provides for the use of funds from the Volkswagen consent decree by the commonwealth for clean vehicles investment. Effective immediately.

*Bill History:*

07-12-17 H Filed  
08-24-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Environmental Resources and Energy

**N** [HB 1696](#)

[Sankey, Thomas\(R\)](#)

(PN 2334) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in registration of vehicles, providing for contributions for sexual offense evidence testing. The contributions shall be used exclusively to assist the Pennsylvania State Police and other law enforcement agencies in testing evidence collected in relation to a sexual assault or other sexual offense at a crime lab approved by the State Police. Requires the governor to report annually to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees the amount received from the contributions and how the funds were used. Effective in 60 days.

*Bill History:*

08-03-17 H Filed  
08-24-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

**N** [HB 1723](#)

[Conklin, Scott\(D\)](#)

(PN 2308) Amends Title 58 (Oil & Gas) providing for a natural gas severance fee of five cents per 1,000 cubic feet of natural gas severed at the wellhead beginning January 1, 2018. Proceeds are directed to the Natural Gas Severance Fee Account. Provides for distribution from the account, hold harmless for royalty payments, for reports, for registration certificates, delinquency, and recordkeeping. Effective immediately.

*Bill History:*

08-17-17 H Filed  
08-18-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Environmental Resources and Energy

**N** [HB 1731](#)

[Conklin, Scott\(D\)](#)

(PN 2316) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in size, weight and load, to allow construction vehicles retrofitted for propulsion through alternative fuels to exceed current maximum gross weight restrictions by up to 2,000 pounds. Effective in 60 days.

*Bill History:*

08-17-17 H Filed  
08-18-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

**N** [SB 635](#)

[Martin, Scott \(F\)\(R\)](#)

(PN 714) Amends Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 75 (Vehicles), in culpability, further providing for causal relationship between conduct and result; in criminal homicide, further providing for the offense of murder; and, in driving after imbibing alcohol or utilizing drugs, further providing for grading and for penalties. The stated intent of the bill is to provide a penalty enhancement for driving under the influence. Effective in 60 days.

*Bill History:*

04-18-17 S Filed  
04-18-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Judiciary  
08-24-17 S Press conference held

## Press Conferences

### LEGISLATORS AND ADVOCATES DISCUSS DUI IGNITION INTERLOCK LAW

By Jessica Richardson, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | August 24, 2017

Legislators and members of the Fraternal Order of Police, the American Automobile Association (AAA), Uber, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and Smart Start held a news conference in the Capitol media center to discuss the implementation and impact of Pennsylvania's Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Ignition Interlock Law.

Sen. John Rafferty (R-Montgomery) said tomorrow marks a significant day because for the first time Ignition Interlock systems for first time offenders will be available. Sen. Rafferty thanked Rep. William Keller (D-Philadelphia) and Rep. John Taylor (R-Philadelphia) for their help with getting the bill passed in the House as it was hard to get it passed in previous years. He stated that according to PennDOT, in 2016 there were 10,256 alcohol related crashes that resulted in 297 deaths in Pennsylvania.

"Unfortunately we are seeing almost six deaths each week because our DUI laws are not strong enough," Sen. Rafferty said. "And I say to you today that the law that takes effect tomorrow is the beginning of what is counting for additional pieces of legislation that will go after drunk drivers and reinstitute mandatory minimum sentences for drunk drivers."

Sen. Rafferty explained that because of the effectiveness of ignition interlocks more than 78,000 driving attempts were stopped in Pennsylvania between 2003 and 2015. He said effective on August 25 [Act 33](#) applies the ignition interlock restriction to first time DUI offenders who are convicted with a blood alcohol content (BAC) level of 0.10 or higher for at least one year, and under new terms individuals can apply to PennDOT for and be issued an Ignition Interlock Limited License so they can drive to work, pick up their children from school or participate in family activities in a strictly controlled environment. Sen. Rafferty said Pennsylvania joins 48 other states with the new law. He explained it is not just good indication that the individual should seek counseling but it will keep Pennsylvania safe. Sen. Rafferty said he will be introducing in the near future legislation to increase the grading of the offense of vehicular homicide while driving under the influence from a felony two to felony one and increase the mandatory prison sentence dependent on prior crimes.

Sen. Scott Martin (R-Lancaster) stated he has strong feelings on the matter for numerous reasons but one is an accident that occurred near his house. He said this legislation is a victory but there are 48 states ahead of Pennsylvania, and they are lacking provisions dealing with repeat offenders and DUI laws in general. Sen. Martin explained he has respect for those looking towards treatment solutions as he has seen it work, but he has also seen putting resources into those who decide to make the wrong decision again and again. He said they are working on [SB 635](#) which will add a presumption of negligence or recklessness when a death of a person is caused by DUI and increase penalties for people who kill somebody after repeat offenses over a ten year period.

"We need to be serious to send the message that if you choose to get in a vehicle over and over again and put Pennsylvanians and family members at risk that there is going to be serious consequences for those actions," Sen. Martin said.

Malcolm Friend, state program manager for Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), said they would like to recognize crime victims here today for continuing to advocate and former national board member of MADD Bryce Templeton for his forward thinking in the use of ignition interlock. He said legislation is important yet every citizen has a responsibility to end drunk driving as it is 100 percent preventable 100 percent of the time. Friend urged those in attendance to imagine how many lives have been saved and injuries prevented in Pennsylvania through the use of interlock, and the expanding use will surely mean more drunk drivers stopped and more lives saved. He said impairment starts with the first drink so always drive sober or get pulled over, and there will be enhanced police presence looking for impaired drivers in the lead up to Labor Day weekend. Friend explained MADD is there for crime victims 24 hours a day and seven days a week at 877-MADD-HELP.

Chris Demko, Pennsylvania Parents Against Impaired Driving (PA PAID), said his group is a grassroots organization of parents across Pennsylvania who have lost children to impaired drivers so for them this legislation is the next necessary step in addressing the ongoing tragedies. Demko let parents of PA PAID say why the legislation is important as they stated family members they lost to impaired driver such as Nicholas Esposito, Zachary Gonzalez, Rodney Miller and Liam Crowley. Demko said he lost his daughter Meredith Demko at 18 years old when an individual driving drunk and high on heroine crashed into their daughter's car. He stated the bill is personal because it is another step in addressing DUI offenders so any time someone is prevented from driving through interlock another death or injury is prevented.

"This is only one piece of legislation to a necessary broader solution to a complex challenge of impaired driving include alcohol and or drugs," Demko said. "The time has come for other legislation that also focuses on high risk offenders who cause the far majority of deaths on Pennsylvania roads."

Demko stated PA PAID recognizes Lancaster County District Attorney Craig Stedman, Sen. Rafferty and his staff, Sen. Martin and Rep. Keith Greiner (R-Lancaster). He said from 2010 to 2016 in Pennsylvania alone there were 90,000 crashes tied to impaired driving resulting in 67,000 injuries and 3,000 deaths.

Stedman said he wishes he didn't have to talk about this because it is not just about words but lives lost, and they cannot have more people on stage, more burials or more cemeteries. He stated he has been prosecuting DUIs for 26 years and it is not stopping, and each and every life lost is preventable. Stedman said this is a great step as it is hard to find legislation that protects the community and helps the offenders, but this manages to do that. Stedman said when Arizona and New Mexico implemented this law they saw a 40 percent decrease in DUIs. He explained last year there was a total of ten lockouts for every ignition interlock installed in Pennsylvania, and one of the challenges is they have had ignition interLOCK tampering but this bill allows them to prosecute those who have tampered with them.

Kara Templeton, PennDOT director of the Bureau of Driver Licensing, said according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration every day 28 people die in an alcohol related crash, approximately one-third of all traffic crash fatalities involves a drunk driver, and on average more than 10,000 people die each year in drunk driving crashes. Templeton said the strengthening of Pennsylvania's ignition interlock law is an important step in helping ensure the safety of the roadways as the mandatory ignition interlock requirement for first time DUI offenders with high BAC is critical. She explained ignition interlock will also be mandatory for individuals who refuse to submit to chemical testing, and Act 33 also establishes a new Ignition Interlock Limited License (IILL) which will allow individuals who operating privilege has been suspended or revoked for a DUI or chemical test refusal to drive with an ignition interlock system installed during the suspension. She said PennDOT is reaching out to individuals eligible for the IILL and making those already using the ignition interlock system aware that when the new law goes into effect they will have to have compliance without an incident in two months. Templeton said Act 33 gives individuals the means to make amends for their poor decision while providing them with a means to get to work, school or treatment.

Sen. Rafferty said that when they began clamping down on underage drinking, binge drinking and underage drinking purchases he received a letter from an individual that they were going too far as it was just a rite of passage. Sen. Rafferty argued people on roadways have the right to live; that is the rite of passage each and every one deserves.

"Act 33 tomorrow begins the process to make sure the rite of passage is ensured for individuals going forward," Sen. Rafferty said.

A Smart Start demonstration was given after the news conference.

Questions were taken from the media.

**Under the previous law was the ignition interlock system required on the second offense?**

Sen. Rafferty answered second offenders on up could get the ignition interlock but this now gives it to first time offenders with certain requirements.

**In terms of paying for it, is the fee levied to the offender?**

Sen. Rafferty said it is \$100 for installation and the average leasing cost is around \$900 to \$1,300.

**Under the previous law there was a hardship exemption; does that have anything to do with people who cannot pay that money?**

Sen. Rafferty answered that when they first began working on the bill, the companies that do provide ignition interlock said they would continue to work with individuals who were unable to pay the fee.

**Regarding recidivism, what is the likelihood of someone with a suspended license to drive anyway drunk?**

Demko said he can give a partial answer as 50 to 75 percent will drive under a suspended license and about a year ago in Pennsylvania there are 110,000 suspended licenses due to DUI.

###

## Upcoming Events

**PA Public Utility Commission**

*August 31, 2017 - 10:00 a.m., Commonwealth Keystone Building, Hearing Room 1, 400 North St., Harrisburg*  
Public Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-1740

**PA Turnpike Commission**

*September 5, 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

**PA Pedalcycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee**

*September 7, 2017 - 12:30 p.m., Commonwealth Keystone Building, Conference Room 8N1, 400 North St., Harrisburg*  
Committee Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-3991

## Session Schedule

**Senate**

September 18, 19, 20  
October 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25  
November 13, 14, 15  
December 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20

**House**

September 11, 12, 13, 25, 26, 27  
October 2, 3, 4, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25  
November 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22  
December 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20

## In the News

- 08-24-2017      [Lawmakers, Advocates Outline PA's New DUI Ignition Interlock Law](#)  
(Press Release)
- 08-24-2017      [PHIA: Work Zone Crashes Increase in PA](#)  
(Press Release)
- 08-24-2017      [News Conference to Focus on Impact, Implementation of PA's DUI Ignition...](#)  
(Press Release)

- 08-24-2017 **Legislators and Advocates Discuss DUI Ignition Interlock Law**  
(Around the Capital)
- 08-24-2017 **Rabbitransit seeks to expand program using Uber, Lyft drivers**  
For the past six months, Rabbitransit has been using drivers from the ride-hailing service Uber to help shuttle some Medicaid patients in York County to doctors' offices and other appointments. Now, Rabbitransit is considering expanding the program throughout its... - [York Daily](#)
- 08-24-2017 **Loyalsock supervisor wants tractor-trailers off side streets**  
The Loyalsock Township supervisors discussed Tuesday the possibility of putting “no truck” signs in some of the more residential roads frequented by delivery tractor-trailers too big to safely navigate the narrow spaces. “I requested this be put on (the agenda) because I saw two cars were... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)
- 08-24-2017 **Most vital part of airport punchlist is future outcome**  
Earth is being moved and construction of the Williamsport Regional Airport’s new passenger terminal is starting. By this time next year, a \$16.8 million airport modernization project in Montoursville will be complete. But the most important part of the punchlist to fulfill follows completion... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)
- 08-24-2017 **Penn State Launching Bike-Share Program**  
Penn State community members and visitors will now be able to grab a bicycle for their treks around the University Park campus and State College with a new bike-share program. The university has partnered with bike-share company Zagster to offer bicycles for on-demand local trips. The program is expected to start by the... - [State College News](#)
- 08-24-2017 **Nether Providence installs new sidewalks to make kids’ trek to school safer**  
There is a place where the sidewalk ends  
And before the street begins,  
And there the grass grows soft and white,  
And there the sun burns crimson bright,  
And there the moon-bird rests from his flight  
To cool in the peppermint wind. – From ‘Where the Sidewalk Ends,’ by Shel Silverstein... - [Primos Delaware County Daily and Sunday Times](#)
- 08-24-2017 **Editorial: First responders answer the call; but what about the cause?**  
It is becoming an eerie coincidence in Upper Darby. Usually when we write about these mass casualty drills, it comes with the caveat: THIS IS ONLY A DRILL. Not in Upper Darby. For the second time in the past few months, a small army of first responders descended upon the 69th Street Terminal after a crash of SEPTA... - [Primos Delaware County Daily and Sunday Times](#)
- 08-24-2017 **Brady turns up heat on feds; seeks expedited rulings on SEPTA crashes**  
UPPER DARBY >> Less than 24 hours after a Norristown High Speed Line train crashed into a parked unoccupied train at the 69th Street terminal, injuring dozens, U.S. Rep. Bob Brady, D-1, fired off a letter demanding an expedited federal investigation into the cause.... - [Primos Delaware County Daily and Sunday Times](#)
- 08-24-2017 **Bridges will see improvements from registration fee**  
POTTSVILLE — The number of bridges being repaired annually in Schuylkill County will likely double when the new \$5 vehicle registration fee goes into effect in 2018. Last week, the commissioners gave their approval to advertise a new ordinance imposing a \$5 on vehicle registrations. The ordinance is available... - [Pottsville Republican and Evening Herald](#)
- 08-24-2017 **Franklin awaits word on grant for light pole project**  
A long-anticipated project to replace a broken traffic light and pole on Liberty Street will cost around \$90,000, and the city is hoping to be approved for a grant that would cover the majority of the cost, according to Franklin city manager Tracy Jamieson. It's been more than a year since

the light pole fell onto a vehicle last... - [Oil City Derrick](#)

08-24-2017

**[Driver's Seat: Intensified driver training can quell increase in traffic deaths](#)**

When Insurance Institute for Highway Safety statistics driver death rates by vehicle were released in the spring, much was made about the cars that led in driver deaths. Small cars like the tiny Hyundai Accent, Nissan Versa, and Ford Fiesta hatchbacks tend to make it onto the... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

08-24-2017

**[Aggressive defense of Pittsburgh parking chair stirs tensions in Squirrel Hill](#)**

As Pittsburgh parking chairs go, this one is pretty standard: green, plastic, maybe a little weathered. Yet the unassuming seat lives in the eye of rare tensions in Squirrel Hill, where Phillips Avenue is simmering over parking privileges — or the lack thereof — granted by the furniture.... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

08-24-2017

**['Meter Up' App Is Coming Back To Philadelphia](#)**

Many Philadelphia drivers will be happy to hear they can soon pay for parking with a smart phone, again. The Philadelphia Parking Authority Board picked a new vendor at Wednesday's meeting and expects to have a new app up and running before the end of November.... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)

08-24-2017

**[Passenger Files Lawsuit Following SEPTA Train Crash That Injured 33](#)**

A lawsuit has been filed on behalf of one passenger injured in Tuesday's SEPTA train crash in Upper Darby. In the complaint, Derrell Robson says he was knocked unconscious and suffered a head injury when the Norristown High Speed Line train slammed into a parked train at 69th Street Station.... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)

08-24-2017

**[Off the Beaten Path: Traversing the Trail in Cumberland County](#)**

Many know that the Appalachian Trail, one of the United State's most famous hiking paths, starts in Maine and ends in Georgia. But one of it's key points sits in Cumberland County and is highlighted by a wooden spoon. The trail's midpoint sits in Pennsylvania's Cumberland County, and... - [Carlisle Sentinel](#)

08-24-2017

**[America must borrow to pay for highways](#)**

Sen. Bob Casey, D-Pa., said Pennsylvania needs to boost manufacturing jobs. Casey toured the Volvo Construction Equipment plant on Tuesday and spoke to more than 100 workers who took a break. "Never forget the importance of your work," Casey said. "Never forget the dignity of your work. The work you're doing every day, the... - [Chambersburg Public Opinion](#)

08-24-2017

**[Lease deals pave way to expand rail trail](#)**

Two land leases have been granted to pave the way for the Greater Hazleton Rails to Trails to be built to the historic village of Eckley. The Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership — the organization spearheading the development of the trail — has succeeded in landing... - [Hazleton Standard-Speaker](#)

08-24-2017

**[Casey urges debt-funded infrastructure during meeting with Volvo workers in Shippensburg](#)**

U.S. Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) visited the Volvo Construction Equipment plant in Shippensburg on Wednesday morning as part of an effort to push pro-manufacturing and infrastructure policies, one of Washington's few topics that generally garners bipartisan support.... - [Carlisle Sentinel](#)

08-24-2017

**[Trafford, Pleasant Valley roads to see more truck traffic from Penn Twp. well site](#)**

As Monroeville drilling company Huntley & Huntley prepares to start work on a fracking well site in Penn Township, Murrysville Chief Administrator Jim Morrison told municipal council members to prepare for truck traffic along Trafford Road. Morrison projected 500 truck trips per day for a

60-day period. But that is... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

- 08-24-2017 **New trail section in Fox Chapel connects north, south ends of borough**  
Fox Chapel Mayor Alex Scott is hosting a grand opening of sorts — a new section of borough trails cleaned and marked by volunteers over the past couple years will officially be open Sept. 23. Scott spearheaded the project in 2015 in an effort to move walkers and... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 08-24-2017 **Pa. Turnpike Commission ordered to pay former employee \$1.6 million in whistleblower case**  
The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has affirmed a lower court's 2016 finding that the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission wrongfully fired former employee Ralph Bailets after he challenged the work of a preferred IT contractor. The court's order, according to Bailets' attorneys, requires the commission... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 08-24-2017 **National security trumps rights of airline passenger falsely accused of bomb threat: U.S. court**  
Can an airline passenger who was falsely accused of making a bomb threat sue an airport security officer for deliberately violating his civil rights ? No, at least not where the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is concerned, a federal appeals court panel has ruled.... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 08-23-2017 **Allegheny Institute Policy Brief: Shale Gas Impact Fee Revenue Continues to...**  
(Press Release)
- 08-23-2017 **... And look where you're going**  
Possibly indicating a new trend afoot, two city governments at opposite ends of the nation are sending wake-up calls — or, more to the point, “Look up!” calls — to smartphone-using pedestrians. Going beyond smartphones' role in “distracted driving,” their role... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 08-23-2017 **Address Hyndman concerns**  
The CSX railroad has been saddled with a substantial financial burden stemming from the Aug. 2 derailment in the southwestern Bedford County borough of Hyndman. The actual amount of the railroad's loss might never be known because CSX has no obligation to report that loss. Regardless, compiling the total... - [Altoona Mirror](#)
- 08-23-2017 **Our view: GAF project moving forward on Erie bayfront**  
As planning and in some cases construction has moved forward on a number of developments that represent a huge cumulative investment in the Erie region's urban core, another key piece of that future is approaching a pivot point. The Erie County Convention Center Authority in September plans to start... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 08-23-2017 **Union wants to hear GE priorities**  
No serious proposals have been submitted at this point, but talks have started between GE Transportation and its union workforce. Scott Slawson wants to cut to the chase. The president of Local 506 of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America at GE Transportation has asked the company to come back... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 08-23-2017 **Penridge Airport takes East Rockhill to court**  
East Rockhill supervisors voted to pay for tree trimming near Penridge Regional Airport on Tuesday, but whether they'll have to keep paying for it is up to the courts. The airport paid to have the trees trimmed in the past, according to the township and the airport owner, Rob Brink. But a lawsuit filed on Aug. 17... - [Levittown Intelligencer](#)

- 08-23-2017 **Peters Township Council rejects grant for signal improvements**  
McMURRAY – Until the mid-1990s, East McMurray and Valley Brook roads in Peters Township was served by stop signs. Although a street redesign with signals solved traffic issues for the time being, continued growth in the township during the past two decades has... - [Washington Observer-Reporter](#)
- 08-23-2017 **Borough set to smooth out rough road in Eddystone**  
EDDYSTONE >> Help is on the way for cars that “bottom out” when they travel on the Ashland Avenue alley between 11th and 12th streets. At the August meeting council decided to make the alley one-way, 12th Street to 11th Street. There are problems with the roadbed in the alley... - [Primos Delaware County Daily and Sunday Times](#)
- 08-23-2017 **Tamaqua seniors group is still seeking a home**  
TAMAQUA — Joan Dietrich told borough council last week that the Tamaqua Senior Citizens group continues to search for a place to call home. But if it doesn't find one, she hoped the borough could help members set up tables and chairs for weekly meetings at the Tamaqua YMCA.... - [Pottsville Republican and Evening Herald](#)
- 08-23-2017 **Apple Scales Back Its Ambitions for a Self-Driving Car**  
As new employees were brought into Apple's secret effort to create a self-driving car a few years ago, managers told them that they were working on the company's next big thing: A product that would take on Detroit and disrupt the automobile industry. These days, Apple's automotive ambitions are more modest. The company... - [New York Times](#)
- 08-23-2017 **Philly airport gets \$16.5 million federal grant for runway improvements**  
Philadelphia International Airport will receive a \$16.5 million federal grant to extend its main east-west runway from 10,500 feet to 12,000 feet. When it is completed, the runway, known as 9-Right, 27-Left, will be one of the longest on the East Coast. On Tuesday, the Federal Aviation Administration announced \$282.6 million in... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 08-23-2017 **Johnstown airport lands \$1.8M for aviation business**  
A few months after taking on the fixed base operation at the Johnstown airport in 2015, Nulton Aviation founder Larry Nulton said he was “shooting for the stars” with an estimated \$800,000 renovation proposal. On Tuesday, the Johnstown-Cambria County Airport Authority voted to accept... - [Johnstown Tribune-Democrat](#)
- 08-23-2017 **Overdoses on the road: Drugged driving rises as a menace**  
Two hours after he shot up heroin June 9, Michael D. Sikora was pulled over by a Slatington police officer... - [AP](#)
- 08-23-2017 **Philly taking another try at pay-by-phone parking**  
The Philadelphia Parking Authority is taking a second pass at a pay-by-phone parking app after the first effort collapsed earlier this year. The app would allow drivers to pay for parking via smartphone and electronically add time remotely. This time, the PPA is looking to an established vendor to manage the app,... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 08-23-2017 **Troopers in disguise nab speeders on Route 66**  
Drivers along Route 66 in Washington Township got a surprise Wednesday when they drove past what appeared to be a PennDOT worker but actually was a state trooper monitoring their speed. Police say 25 people were cited and four others were given warnings during... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 08-23-2017 **Forget self-driving cars. A CMU spinoff is helping to make self-piloted, flying taxis.**  
Sure, you can hail a self-driving Uber with the tap of a button, but in the not-so-distant future, you could be hailing an electric, self-piloted air taxi in much the same way. Building on the



ballooning list of self-driving transportation efforts in Pittsburgh, a Bloomfield-based Carnegie Mellon University spinoff called... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

08-22-2017

**KTFC Update Vol. 6 Issue 13**

(Press Release)

08-22-2017

**Turnpike has addressed many concerns in McDonald flood area**

The Pennsylvania Turnpike has until Friday to respond to a notice of violation from the state Department of Environmental Protection as a result of flooding from road construction near McDonald. But many of the issues in the notice already have been addressed, according... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

08-22-2017

**Up in the air: Bold moves at airport should not be irreversible**

The Allegheny County Airport Authority is right to be thinking big about changes to improve Pittsburgh International Airport. A proposed master plan will be available in the months ahead and, as the Post-Gazette's Mark Belko reported last week, it might contain the idea of mothballing the... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

08-22-2017

**Demand for batteries is good news for local manufacturers**

FYI East Penn Manufacturing Co. Inc. Location: Deka Road, Lyons Phone: 610-682-6361 Website: [www.eastpenmanufacturing.com](http://www.eastpenmanufacturing.com) Enersys Location: 2366 Bernville Road, Bern Township Phone: 610-208-1991 Website: [www.enersys.com](http://www.enersys.com) Auto analysts are predicting that electric vehicles will make up 40 percent... - [Reading Eagle](#)

08-22-2017

**Customers, governments push for more electric, hybrid vehicles**

In July, Dr. Richard Close, a neurosurgeon at Reading Health Physician Network, traded in his 2012 diesel-operated Volkswagen Touareg for a 2017 Mercedes-Benz GLE 550e4, an all-wheel-drive, plug-in hybrid. Close said he needed a roomy vehicle to carry his golden retrievers, Daisy... - [Reading Eagle](#)

08-22-2017

**For most truckers, highway use tax return due**

WASHINGTON - The Internal Revenue Service reminded truckers and other owners of heavy highway vehicles that, in most cases, their next federal highway use tax return is due Aug. 31. According to a release, the deadline generally applies to Form 2290 and the accompanying tax payment for the tax year that began July 1 and ends June... - [Reading Eagle](#)

08-22-2017

**Horse and buggies ought to be licensed, like other vehicles on Pennsylvania roads**

THE ISSUE A proposed law would require horse and buggies to register and display license plates in Pennsylvania, LNP reported Sunday. The current law states that vehicles moved by animal or human power do not need plates. House Bill 1670, introduced this year by state Rep. Michael K. Hanna, a Democrat... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)

08-22-2017

**Storm sewer pollutant-reduction plan approved in Doylestown Monday**

In order to reduce stormwater pollution by 10 percent in the next five years, Doylestown Borough may be pursuing several construction projects in and near three parks. Borough council unanimously approved a pollutant-reduction plan Monday as part of its application to comply with a federally mandated program.... - [Levittown Intelligencer](#)

08-22-2017

**Letter: Drivers, Watch Your Wallets**

The Coalition of State College Neighborhood Associations seems intent upon pushing anti-driver policies. A press release spoke about wanting red-light cameras, municipal police radar, etc. This was followed by talk of implementing revenue-producing measures. Thanks for your honesty!... - [State College News](#)

08-22-2017

**Bus service planning continues**

LOCK HAVEN — August is drawing near its end and there still is no bus service in town. Things seem to be lined up locally for a pilot project that would provide daily bus service in the Lock Haven area, as well as service to Jersey Shore and Williamsport. The holdup is on the state level, city council... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)

08-22-2017

**Pa. DUI offenders who would lose license have another option**

First-time DUI offenders in Pennsylvania with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.10 or more used to lose their driving privileges for a year. But a law that goes into effect on Friday provides another option, according to a published report. Those drivers can now have an ignition interlock system installed instead,... - [Easton Express-Times](#)

08-22-2017

**Casey, Toomey split on Trump's Afghanistan speech: Tuesday Morning Coffee**

Good Tuesday Morning, Fellow Seekers. Now that President Donald Trump has sketched out a new policy for Afghanistan (more boots on the ground, an extended stay), Pennsylvania's two United States senators are having their say. Republican U.S. Sen. Pat Toomey and Democrat Bob Casey both issued... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

08-22-2017

**The Harrisburg and U.S. economies depend on private freight rail**

America's privately owned freight railroads serve an important role in the economy, including in greater Harrisburg, a rail hub in a state long connected to the industry. Pennsylvania is home to nearly 60 railroads, including major carriers such as CSX, Canadian Pacific and Norfolk... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

08-22-2017

**Feds: Brake problems preceded derailment of train in Hyndman**

Crews encountered air brake problems before a 178-car freight train derailed in Bedford County earlier this month, causing hazardous material to ignite and forcing nearby residents to evacuate, federal investigators said... - [AP](#)

08-22-2017

**UPDATE: 42 people injured as train going 'like, super-fast' crashes at 69th Street in Upper Darby (With video)**

Dozens of people were injured when a SEPTA rail car slammed into an unoccupied car sitting at 69th Street Terminal, official said. The incident occurred at 12:10 a.m. when an incoming Norristown line car collided with the trolley car at the terminal. None of the injuries are believed to be serious.... - [Primos Delaware County Daily and Sunday Times](#)

08-22-2017

**Full steam ahead, after 12 years, for historic Inwood Bridge replacement**

A major obstacle preventing replacement of the historic Inwood Bridge near Lickdale has been removed, thanks to the generosity of a North Lebanon Township couple. On Thursday, the county took ownership of two parcels of land from Chuck and Charlotte Allwein, for the nominal price of \$1 each.... - [Lebanon Daily News](#)

08-22-2017

**Norristown High Speed Line trains still running after crash**

Norristown High Speed Line trains are operating on a modified schedule his morning following an overnight crash that injured 42 people at the 69th Street Terminal in Upper Darby. SEPTA says passengers should expect delays as trains are operating only every 20 minutes between 69th Street and Norristown Transportation Centers.... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

08-22-2017

**42 hurt in SEPTA train crash outside Philadelphia**

A SEPTA Norristown High Speed Line train ran into an unoccupied train early Tuesday inside the 69th Street Transportation Center in Upper Darby, injuring 42 people, officials said. None of the injuries appear to be life threatening, SEPTA said. The train's operator was treated at Penn Presbyterian Hospital and... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

08-22-2017

**Pier 122 in South Philadelphia gets a new life handling autos**

The reawakening of a long-dormant pier has Hyundai and Kia autos rolling off ships from South

Korea in record numbers at the Philadelphia port this summer. According to PhilaPort, the state agency that operates the Port of Philadelphia, 200,000 vehicles are expected in 2017, up from 150,000, with... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

- 08-21-2017 **Sen. Rafferty: News Conference to Focus on Impact, Implementation of PA's DUI...**  
(Press Release)
- 08-21-2017 **Project aims to bolster safety on Liberty Avenue in Strip District**  
Give it a couple years, and traveling Liberty Avenue in the Strip District shouldn't feel so much like a sardine can. Wider, safer traffic lanes, new pedestrian signals and better lighting are among the changes planned there by 2019 or 2020. The nearly \$6 million... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 08-21-2017 **New trails and projects to improve, expand Lackawanna River Heritage Trail**  
From a pavilion on the most popular section to opportunities for horseback riding, the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority is moving forward with several big projects along the 40-mile trail that winds from Pittston to Union Dale. The authority has worked for months to add about 2½ miles to the Lackawanna... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 08-21-2017 **AAA advises drivers to resist temptation to view solar eclipse**  
WILKES-BARRE — The first cross-country solar eclipse since the advent of the automobile and the free interstate system is heading our way today. And while the eclipse won't cover Northeastern Pennsylvania in complete darkness, drivers almost certainly will see and feel the difference on the... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)
- 08-21-2017 **Residents decry loss of bridge**  
FRANKSTOWN — The pedestrian swinging bridge in the Lower Reese area of Frankstown Township, a piece of Blair County's history that used to be an escape route for a rising river, is gone. Blair County's highway department demolished the structure earlier this... - [Altoona Mirror](#)
- 08-21-2017 **Flexible zoning in South Whitehall landed massive Kay Builders development**  
When sketch plans for 810 singles, twins, town homes and apartments came across the desk of South Whitehall Township planners, it didn't go unnoticed. "I don't think the township has ever seen anything like this on this scale," said South Whitehall planner Gregg Adams.... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 08-21-2017 **BACK TO SCHOOL | Getting ready to roll: Safety a priority as school buses hit the road, utilize new routes in some districts**  
As bright yellow school buses begin circling the region in the next few weeks taking students back to school, administrators and bus company officials are emphasizing the importance of safety for the daily commute. Vincent DiLeo, superintendent at Central Cambria, said his district... - [Johnstown Tribune-Democrat](#)
- 08-21-2017 **Philadelphia Women Petition For Lactation Rooms In Train Stations**  
Two Philadelphia women are petitioning Amtrak to install breast pumping stations at 30th Street Station, and at Union Station in Washington DC. Lacey Kohlmoos and Samatnah Matlin have created Care2 petitions online demanding that AMTRAK create lactation rooms.... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)
- 08-21-2017 **New DUI Law To Take Effect In Pennsylvania**  
Beginning later this week, anyone in Pennsylvania caught driving drunk with a blood alcohol level above .10 will have to get a device installed that prevents a car from starting if alcohol is detected on the driver's breath. Current DUI laws call for a one-year license suspension for first-time... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)

- 08-21-2017 **New air terminal for Williamsport**  
A groundbreaking is scheduled Aug. 31 for a new passenger terminal at the airport here. The 30,000-square-foot building is budgeted at \$16.8 - [Bloomsburg Press Enterprise](#)
- 08-21-2017 **Unpaved roads get more state support**  
The roads less traveled in Schuylkill County have been getting more attention. Since Gov. Tom Corbett's transportation plan was enacted in 2013, the state's Dirt and Gravel Road Maintenance Program has seen its budget jump from \$5 million to \$35 million annually and now includes low-volume... - [Hazleton Standard-Speaker](#)
- 08-21-2017 **RabbitTransit seeks ride-sharing expansion options in York, surrounding counties**  
Rabbit Transit officials want to connect aging individuals to modern-day technology through ride-sharing apps like Uber if it's financially prudent. A six-month pilot program conducted in York County is guiding officials to understand how best to use all available resources right at their... - [York Dispatch](#)
- 08-21-2017 **Hill International is cutting costs again, by at least \$27M**  
Hill International, the publicly traded Philadelphia construction-project management company, says it plans to cut at least \$27 million, and as much as \$38 million, from yearly expenses in cost-saving moves over the next year, under a plan arranged with help from New York-based consultant... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 08-21-2017 **New law gives first-time DUI offenders an option to losing their license for a year**  
Starting on Friday, those convicted of driving drunk for the first time in Pennsylvania may have an option to losing their license for a year. A new state law is taking effect that allows first-time DUI offenders with a blood-alcohol content of .10 or above to get an ignition interlock system... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 08-20-2017 **Work zone crashes, deaths on the rise**  
Carl Antonelli knows just how dangerous road work can be. Four years ago, the PennDOT employee was struck by a car while working as a construction flagger during a roadway chipping project in Findlay, Allegheny County. The driver that struck Antonelli peeled out from an intersection in an... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 08-20-2017 **PennDOT lists Westmoreland maintenance projects**  
PennDOT's Westmoreland County maintenance crews are planning the following work next week: Hempfield • Maintain bridges on the Bovard-Luxor Road and on Route 1049. • Repair inlets on Route 30 and install pipe and improve drainage at the highway's Cedar Street Exit.... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 08-20-2017 **Another defeat down South: UAW running out of gas**  
Employees' overwhelming rejection of the United Auto Workers at a Nissan plant in Mississippi stung the UAW so badly that the vote had barely ended when the union filed unfair labor practice charges with the National Labor Relations Board. But even in the unlikely event that the NLRB forces another vote at that... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 08-20-2017 **Free or discounted rides for seniors? There are more options in Philly**  
Philadelphia is one of the few American cities where buses, trains and other public transportation remains free or deeply discounted for seniors. What if you need a ride from your home, though? Enter drivers such as those working with Surrey Services for Seniors in... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 08-20-2017 **On the river: Coxtan bridge to fall by year's end**  
The Coxtan Railroad Bridge over the Susquehanna River is coming down. And, to the state Department of Environmental Protection's gratitude, there are plans for it to come down before it

falls down on its own. The Redevelopment Authority of Luzerne County plans to dismantle the... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)

- 08-20-2017 **GE Transportation lacks respect for Erie workers: Letters to the editor**  
The latest word from GE Transportation just goes to show everybody where the GE management has its heart. It's not for their employees, it is for their own pockets. Normally when a business slows down, such as a lack of sales, an employer will lay people off until business picks up again.... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 08-20-2017 **Fayette commissioners approve funding for Point Marion section of Sheepskin Trail**  
Fayette County's Board of Commissioners took a long awaited step toward expanding the Sheepskin Trail at its meeting Thursday, approving the earmarking of \$250,000 in Act 13 Legacy funds for completion of the Point Marion section of the trail. Preceding the commissioners' vote was a public comment section during... - [Uniontown Herald-Standard](#)
- 08-20-2017 **\$3.7M resurfacing project begins on Route 30 in East Lampeter Township**  
Work on a major East Lampeter Township roadway began this week and will continue until next summer, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. A 3.5-mile section of Lincoln Highway East will be repaired and resurfaced in the \$3.7 million project, PennDOT said.... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 08-20-2017 **Lights out: Cumberland County prepares for partial eclipse**  
For the first time in 38 years, a solar eclipse will be seen Monday across the 48 contiguous United States. Cumberland County sits well north of the path of totality, a 70-mile wide swath stretching from the northwest to the southeast where the moon will completely block the sun for up to two minutes. Here in central... - [Carlisle Sentinel](#)
- 08-20-2017 **Is Allentown neglecting its fleet of firetrucks?**  
On the day fire gutted five row homes on Delaware Street in 2008 and made 19 people homeless, four Allentown fire engines were out of service, including the one at the nearby Mack South Fire Station. So officials at Mack were forced to send a pickup truck to the fast-moving fire, and... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 08-20-2017 **Despite efforts, pedestrian accidents holding steady across Lehigh Valley**  
Jasmine and Tyisha Bell have known from a young age how dangerous urban streets can be. The little sister of a childhood friend was killed at age 4 crossing Tilghman Street in 1993, one of three children hit by cars within a week in Allentown. A neighborhood petition led to the speed limit being lowered... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 08-20-2017 **Bill Hollis: Buckeye Partners' plan could bring lower-cost fuel to Pa.**  
America is experiencing a revolution that's fundamentally changed how and where we get the energy that powers our economy. Thanks to our free markets, innovation and strategic investments by many companies, the U.S. is now the world's leading energy producer. Pennsylvanians have a unique... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 08-18-2017 **Weekly Update: Announcing Reduction in PSSA Testing, Encouraging Stability...**  
(Press Release)
- 08-18-2017 **Rep. Brett Miller - Weekly Roundup for August 18, 2017**  
(Press Release)
- 08-18-2017 **Officials celebrate new I-70 interchange in Washington County**  
The proof is in the numbers. In the five years before motorists could use what's called a diverging diamond interchange where Route 19 meets Interstate 70 in South Strabane, Washington county, there were nearly 200 traffic accidents near the interchange, said

Rachel Duda, assistant district engineer for design for... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

- 08-18-2017 **Digging in: The combative president hurts his own cause**  
Improving the nation's infrastructure is the part of President Donald Trump's agenda that has the best chance of uniting Americans across the board. Mr. Trump held a Tuesday press conference to celebrate his executive order "to dramatically reform the nation's badly broken... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 08-18-2017 **Free or discounted rides for seniors? There are more options in Philly**  
Philadelphia is one of the few American cities where buses, trains and other public transportation remains free or deeply discounted for seniors. What if you need a ride from your home, though? Enter drivers such as those working with Surrey Services for Seniors in... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 08-18-2017 **Get app, ride bike free in South Jersey's Gloucester Township**  
Another South Jersey community jumped on the bicycling bandwagon Wednesday with a program to get residents pedaling free with a swipe of their smartphones. Gloucester Township Mayor David R. Mayer and dignitaries cut a blue ribbon at a bike-share kiosk with 10 neatly lined up white bikes at a docking... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 08-18-2017 **\$3.7 million resurfacing project begins on Route 30 in East Lampeter Township**  
Work on a major East Lampeter Township roadway began this week and will continue until next summer, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. A 3.5-mile section of Lincoln Highway East will be repaired and resurfaced in the \$3.7 million project, PennDOT said.... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 08-18-2017 **Park City adds solar powered car-charging station**  
The first publicly available, solar-powered electric car charger in Pennsylvania awaits its debut at Park City Center, between Sears and Kohl's. Park City Center is set to become the site of the first solar-powered, publicly available electric-car charging station Friday morning.... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 08-18-2017 **Wilkes-Barre to soon collect nearly \$1M reimbursement from PennDOT**  
WILKES-BARRE — A nearly \$1 million reimbursement expected soon from the state will come at an opportune time for the city as cash gets tighter in the second half of the year, city attorney Tim Henry said. The \$960,000 payment from PennDOT will cover the state's share of the... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)
- 08-18-2017 **WWII planes to be on display at airport**  
Children and adults can explore and even fly in World War II aircraft today through Sunday at the Altoona-Blair County Airport at Martinsburg. In honor of World War II veterans, the Collings Foundation is scheduled to fly rare bomber and fighter aircraft to the airport at 2 p.m. today, where... - [Altoona Mirror](#)
- 08-18-2017 **Conemaugh Health gets outpatient center approval**  
EBENSBURG — Conemaugh Health Systems may break ground on a \$20 million outpatient care center as early as this fall after Cambria Township supervisors approved final plans. Plans for the 40,000-square-foot building were presented at a Wednesday meeting, when township engineer Jack Schaffer gave a few comments about the... - [Altoona Mirror](#)
- 08-18-2017 **PennDOT may release data on Real ID costs**  
After refusing for nearly six weeks to say whether a study on the taxpayer costs of implementing federal identification requirements that will affect domestic air travel will be made public, state transportation officials now say it could be released. The change in the agency's stance came two days after the Reading Eagle... - [Reading Eagle](#)

- 08-18-2017 **Berks lawmaker requests Real ID data**  
In the wake of PennDOT's refusal to release a 2008 Real ID study the Pennsylvania Office of Open Records ruled is a public document, state Rep. Mark M. Gillen wants an explanation for what he calls unacceptable stonewalling. The Berks County lawmaker also promised to collaborate with colleagues to... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 08-18-2017 **Rockefeller begins making case for rezoning 155 acres in East Allen for warehouses**  
East Allen Township supervisors heard testimony this week on a request by a New York developer to rezone 155 acres of agricultural land so it can develop a logistics warehouse complex. With about 100 people in attendance at Northampton Area High School's auditorium on Wednesday — and many of them wanting to voice their... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 08-18-2017 **Whitemarsh supervisors prepare to condemn properties intersection improvements**  
WHITEMARSH >> The board of supervisors passed a condemnation resolution Thursday for intersection improvements at a proposed development on Stenton Avenue. The resolution allows the township to condemn properties for eminent domain in the wake of a court order regarding the proposed Highway Materials Inc.... - [Norristown Times Herald](#)
- 08-18-2017 **Montgomery County commissioners focus on planning, transportation and finances**  
NORRISTOWN >> A progress report on the Pennsylvania Turnpike corridor reinvestment project and the unveiling of the Montgomery County 2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report were at the top of the agenda at the county commissioners' Thursday meeting. Montgomery County Planning Commission Executive Director Jody Holton and... - [Lansdale Reporter](#)
- 08-18-2017 **Trucks reduced along Route 45 in Lewisburg**  
LEWISBURG — A Valley trucking firm pledged to reduce its travel through downtown Lewisburg while a grocery chain committed to a reduction during special events. Representatives of both Watsonstown Trucking and Weis Markets said their firms worked since the beginning of a road reconstruction project in... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)
- 08-18-2017 **\$2.8M in federal grants coming to Lehigh Valley airports**  
Lehigh Valley International and Queen City airports are benefiting from \$2.8 million in four grants awarded by the Federal Aviation Administration. The airports' owner, the Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority, accepted the grants during a meeting Thursday of its board of governors at LVIA in... - [Easton Express-Times](#)
- 08-18-2017 **Pittsburgh International Airport considers abandoning \$1B terminal's landside building, tram**  
Drastic changes could be in store for Pittsburgh International Airport under a proposed master plan to be unveiled in the months ahead, perhaps even the possible loss of one of the two buildings that make up the 25-year-old midfield terminal. One option being considered is discontinuing the use of the \$1 billion... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 08-18-2017 **The new threat, drugged-driving, requires aggressive enforcement: Editorial**  
If you don't think you're going to be personally touched by Pennsylvania's explosive opioid epidemic, think about this: Every time you get behind the wheel, you're at risk of getting into an accident with someone who may have gotten high on drugs only moments before they got into their car.... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 08-18-2017 **PATH service temporarily suspended between two stations in Jersey City**  
11:23 A.M. UPDATE: Service on the Newark to World Trade Center and Journal Square to 33rd Street lines are now operating with limited service. PATH service between two stations in Jersey City has been temporarily suspended due to a "track condition," - [Trenton Times](#)

08-18-2017

**Franklin St. project open house scheduled**

PennDOT will hold an open house and plans display to introduce the proposed Route 3011 Franklin Street improvements project in the city of Johnstown from 6 to 8 p.m. Aug, 24 at the Greater Johnstown Senior High School auditorium, 222 Central Ave. The project will include development and final design of multi-modal... - [Johnstown Tribune-Democrat](#)

08-18-2017

**United Airlines Passenger Accused Of Groping Teen**

NEWARK, N.J. (CBS) — A 16-year-old girl is speaking out after she says she was sexually assaulted on a United Airlines flight. The teen was traveling alone on an overnight flight from Seattle to Newark back in July. She says she woke up to find the man sitting next to her, touching her... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)