

Talking Points to Address the State's Transportation Crisis

Contact the Governor and the Legislative Leaders: Please let Gov. Corbett and the legislative leaders know that you believe the recommendations made by the Transportation Funding Advisory Commission appointed by the Governor are a good framework for addressing the state's transportation crisis. Action is especially urgent given the 35% cuts the Port Authority will be forced to make in September 2012 if the crisis is not resolved.

- Transportation is essential to economic growth, and given the fragile economic recovery, we cannot afford inaction. Without sufficient investment in infrastructure, roads will crumble, bridges will rust apart, and transit systems will be shut down, crippling the state's economy.
- Investment in transportation drives job creation. Engineering and planning jobs today lead to construction jobs tomorrow. And the investment delivers a real working asset – a rebuilt highway or a new bridge or an improved port – that helps drive more economic activity and sustainable prosperity.
- The Transportation Funding Advisory Commission has successfully identified ways to fund critical transportation systems in the state: roads, highways, bridges, transit, rail, ports.
- The level of public transit funding is of particular concern in the Pittsburgh and Philadelphia metro regions, which power the entire state economy. The Pittsburgh workforce relies on robust transit to get to their place of employment – 50 percent of downtown workers, and 25 percent of Oakland workers use transit.
- The proposed Port Authority reductions in service would significantly affect the Pittsburgh region's economic health. Entire communities would see bus service disappear and 45% of routes would be eliminated, leading to businesses losing employees and customers.
- The Commission has put forward a strong set of recommendations that combine stable and consistent funding from user fees with streamlined operations, efficiency improvements, and new tools such as public-private partnerships to help improve transportation systems across the state.

- The scope of the Commission recommended funding level, \$2.7 billion per year, is the right level to ensure that the state's transportation systems are properly maintained and improved.
- The Commission's approach goes beyond just new revenue, recommending that the state approve public-private partnership legislation to develop new ways to fund projects; ways to streamline and improve PennDOT operations; and specific steps to improve efficiency with the Turnpike Commission, transit agencies, and other operations.

Write, Fax, Phone, or Email

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