



February 8 - 14, 2019

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**SESSION STATUS**

At 3:34 p.m. on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 the Senate stands in recess until Monday, March 18, 2019 at 1:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled.

At 11:44 a.m. on Wednesday, February 6, 2019 the House stands adjourned until Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 1:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled.

**UPCOMING SESSION DAYS**

**House**

Feb. 19, 20, 21  
Mar. 11-13, 18-20, 25-27  
April 8-10, 15,-17, 29, 30  
May 1, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 22  
June 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24-28  
Budget hearings: Feb. 11 - Mar. 7

**Senate**

Mar. 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27  
April 8, 9, 10, 29, 30  
May 1, 6, 7, 8  
June 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 24-28  
Budget hearings: Feb. 19 - Mar. 7

**WEEKLY TRANSPORTATION RECAP**

**Around the Rotunda**

No Around the Rotunda this week.

**Committee News**

**House Appropriations Committee Budget Hearing with IFO (BH)**

*2/11/19, 10:00 a.m., 140 Main Capitol*

By Jessica Richardson, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee held a budget hearing with the Independent Fiscal Office (IFO)

[Matthew Knittel](#), director, IFO, was joined by Brenda Warburton.

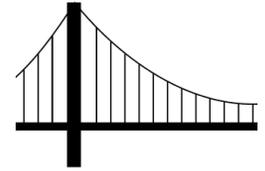
Chairman Saylor stated the purpose of the budget hearings are to look at the governor's proposed budget as well as look back at prior initiatives that the governor proposed in the past. He said the committee's overarching goal is to make sure that any dollar appropriated provides true value to the citizens of Pennsylvania. He commented the proposed budget relies on revenues assumptions that need to be looked at. Chairman Saylor noted their job is to focus on what is going on in Harrisburg.

Chairman Bradford thanked Chairman Saylor for being courteous as he is the new democratic chair. He said he believes this budget is the beginning of a conversation on how to invest in Pennsylvania's future and help those that need it most. He said the governor, after making important investments for four years, does not want to go backward and this budget makes important investments.

Rep. Greiner asked for a brief explanation of the proposed changes to the Corporate Net Income (CNI) Tax and combined reporting in 2020. Knittel explained combined reporting attempt to prevent abusive transactions as it is reporting taxable profits of a unitary group. Rep. Greiner commented that some other states that have converted to combined reporting had less revenue than what was estimated. Knittel responded that there are 26 states with combined reporting, with Kentucky and New Jersey recently passing it. He said looking at academic studies shows a mixed bag of revenue estimates, but tax administrators agree that it would expand the tax base. Knittel noted that one key item is how the state treats net operating losses (NOLs). Rep. Greiner inquired what the problem is with lawsuits in other states. Knittel responded that the main challenge is defining the unitary group and he would expect court cases to occur in Pennsylvania.

Rep. Bullock inquired what the percentages of minorities and women are on staff at the IFO. Knittel replied there are 11 full-time employees with seven female and four male. He said one employee has a disability, but there are no employees traditionally defined of minority or veteran status. He noted it is the same number of staff as last year but with one more female and one less male. Rep. Bullock asked what the IFO learned from the review of tax credits. Knittel explained part of the performance-based budgeting (PBB) board was to review New Jobs, Historic Preservation and Film Production Tax Credits. He said for film production, the IFO found a return on investment of 13 cents; for job creation there was a negative return on investment; and for historic preservation there was great potential as it revitalizes communities and reduces crime. Rep. Bullock asked what the recommendations





are regarding the tax credits. Knittel replied it is recommended that film targets state residents, that job creation is revisited and that historic has a different scoring system.

Rep. Dunbar asked if the IFO analyzed the tax proposal calling for a \$7.2 million reduction in the CNI tax. Knittel stated that the IFO is going to and will put out a report next month. Rep. Dunbar inquired what the IFO had discovered in studies on combined reporting. Knittel responded that he thinks the 8-12 percent base expansion is dependent on how the state treats NOLs. Rep. Dunbar asked if they attribute any of it to [Act 52 of 2013](#). Knittel stated the IFO has not looked at that but will for the upcoming report. Rep. Dunbar inquired if the IFO is going to update the tax credit reports for PBB annually or wait every five years. Knittel explained that the statute is open so it would be up to the guidance of the board.

Rep. Kinsey inquired how the proposed increase in the minimum wage might impact the economy. Knittel said that will be part of the revenue analysis next month. He said that last year, the IFO estimated that it would increase economic activity with an additional \$40 million in tax revenues. Rep. Kinsey asked if there would be an analysis on surrounding states. Knittel said states surrounding Pennsylvania have at least \$8.50 or higher and are going up in phases. He said the last time the minimum wage was raised in Pennsylvania was in 2009.

Rep. Keller asked if the 26 other states that have combined reporting already had a provision like that in Act 52 of 2013. Knittel said he does not know but can look at that for the analysis next month. Rep. Keller commented that would be important to include as it would affect the difference. Rep. Keller noted that if the minimum wage is raised, things that tie to it, like social security tax, would be affected. He asked if the IFO did an analysis on what happens to those on fixed incomes. Knittel responded that a key part to minimum wage is where the money is coming from. Rep. Keller inquired if the IFO has looked at the statewide average weekly wage. Knittel replied the average wage compensation in Pennsylvania is \$57,616.

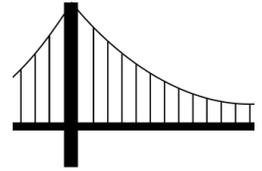
Rep. Schweyer questioned if there is anything outside the rainy day fund that could restore some sense of a safety net for Pennsylvania's fiscal house. Knittel replied that there should be more long-term planning as there is expected to be an economic downturn in the next year or two. Rep. Schweyer asked if the New Job Tax Credit was hard to isolate from the overall package of incentives. Knittel replied yes.

Rep. Rothman inquired if the long-term revenue will meet long-term expenditures with the challenge in age demographics. Knittel stated they believe the demographic shift is a key contributing factor for slower revenue growth and increased expenditures. He said it is a challenge for the budget as people are outliving their savings.

Rep. Kim commented that Maryland, New Jersey and New York have a higher minimum wage and a lower unemployment rate. Rep. Kim also noted that it would be interesting to add the recidivism rate in comparison with minimum wage to the IFO analysis, as Pennsylvania pays \$49,000 per inmate. Rep. Kim added the one-time revenue sources in the budget seemed to be a determining factor in the credit rating going down in 2017. Knittel replied that the rainy day fund and one-time measures were noted in the five-year report. He said if there is a slow down again next year then there would need to be drastic changes, such as borrowing or cutting or raising taxes.

Rep. Grove inquired about information regarding the additional lottery support for Medical Assistance payments. Warburton replied that is a transfer to alleviate the budgetary pressure in general. She said the governor's budget does propose a new transfer from sales tax. Rep. Grove stated it is \$115 million the governor wants to transfer from sales tax. Rep. Grove asked about the bond service. Warburton noted that they believed the debt service was \$150 million and that \$89 million would be shifted to the general fund. Rep. Grove noted that for funding shifts for the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), the IFO has \$59 million, but the representative said he has documents saying \$77.73 million. Warburton said that could be her error. Rep. Grove inquired if the DHS is planning on using additional one-time dollars in their fund this year, as they used \$201 million prior. Warburton stated that is for this year and a lot of it was prior funds that had not been spent.

Rep. Donatucci inquired how Pennsylvania will handle a challenge of a recession. Knittel explained if it is assumed the



general funds would be \$35 billion with a normal growth of three percent, there would be an impact of \$1 billion a year, and with a mild recession it would be about \$1.2 billion.

Rep. Brown questioned which tax collections are doing well and which are not. Knittel explained the IFO is adding \$321 million due to three sources: Sales and Use Tax, CNI and gaming expansion. He said one major surprise was that personal income tax's estimated payments lost \$100 million in January because of the decline of the stock market in the fourth quarter and the large overpayments made last year due to the federal tax law changes.

Rep. Gainey asked what the impact would be with raising the minimum wage. Knittel stated that due to the government shutdown there is no new data, but data from last year found that 420,000 individuals made between \$7.25-\$10 per hour, 550,000 individuals made between \$10-\$12 per hour, and 110,000 individuals made between \$12-\$15 per hour. Rep. Gainey inquired how that will move many Pennsylvanians out of poverty. Knittel replied he believes they can provide that insight in the analysis.

Rep. Delozier inquired about more information regarding the IFO revenue estimates being lower than what the governor estimates. Knittel explained the IFO has \$128 million lower revenue estimates, but the IFO is more optimistic with gross tax revenues being plus \$123 million. Rep. Delozier noted that there is a proposed shifting of dollars to different accounts based on objectives and initiatives that have not been approved yet. She said this is proposing to spend dollars that they do not have.

Rep. Krueger commented that it should be taken into account that workers earning higher minimum wages require less benefits and public assistance. Knittel responded that two years ago, the IFO specifically looked at that and things such as the child care subsidy would go up, but it would all be offset with Medical Assistance.

Rep. Struzzi noted that Indiana County represents a number of different size businesses and he has serious concerns with raising the minimum wage. He noted it would have a big impact on university students and those that have two to four employees. He added the increase would be passed to the consumer. He asked the IFO's take on how it will affect the private and public sector and the long-term impact on college and high school students. Knittel noted that those helped by minimum wage could also be hurt by it because of the reduction in jobs. Knittel explained there is a report in Washington State for Seattle that restaurant costs are passed to the buyer and consumers.

Rep. Fiedler inquired if the IFO has any recommendations based on best practices or the commonwealth's past on how to be prepared for an economic downturn. Knittel stated he does not have specific recommendations, but believes there should be an adequate rainy day fund and predictable revenue streams.

Rep. Gabler asked how the minimum wage would impact job losses. Knittel explained the IFO found that if the minimum wage was raised to: \$10.50 employment reduction would be 2.5-3 percent, \$12 about 4 percent in reduction, and last year it was brought down to 3.2 percent in reduction. Knittel said for last year it was 30,000 jobs over a number of years. He noted that phasing is critical. Rep. Gabler asked if there is an analysis on how this would affect someone's purchasing power. Knittel said the cost would be passed on to higher prices, but they have not done an analysis statewide on the inflation rate.

Rep. Cephas asked for a breakdown in job loss, elimination of new jobs and unfilled positions. Knittel explained what he has seen in the past is that new technology will displace workers but then also create new jobs. He said there are four sectors that are counting for half of the jobs: employment services, home health care, social assistance and food service workers.

Rep. Heffley noted the increase in minimum wage would be a 107 percent increase. He asked what the average age of the minimum wage worker is. Knittel stated it is disproportionately younger workers. Rep. Heffley commented this type of increase would put a burden on employers and provide fewer jobs to high school age workers who learn responsibility. He asked if those on fixed incomes such as social security would be able to go out to coffee with their friends like they normally would. Knittel replied there have been studies out there and they can look at it in their analysis.



Rep. Wheatley stated he has appreciation and respect for the current governor. He said the state is still facing financial challenges with one-time fixes and the state needs reoccurring revenue. Knittel stated he agrees that with the current trajectory of one-time revenues, cuts will have to be enacted. Rep. Wheatley said a major component of the budget is human services. He asked what a cut to human services would do long-term for seniors and the medically challenged. Knittel said it would leave a significant challenge as the population will grow and outpace economic growth.

Rep. Owlett asked how many businesses are going to close with an estimate of 30,000-50,000 jobs lost. Knittel replied he has not had a change to analyze that in the last analysis, but there is data. Rep. Owlett inquired what would happen to the property rates if small businesses were to close. Knittel stated it depends where someone is located.

Rep. Fritz inquired how much of a reserve or surplus the IFO sits on. Knittel said there is a significant lapse in unused funds and he does not know the exact number, but it is between \$3-4 million. Rep. Fritz asked what cost drivers the agency has. Knittel replied it is personnel as well as pension and health care.

Rep. Ortitay questioned what makes up the \$1.3 billion increase in expenditures for the Medical Assistance line. Warburton explained the large increase in 2019-2020 for the DHS was related to one-time measures in 2018-2019. Rep. Ortitay asked for the number of requests received by the General Assembly. Knittel stated the IFO receives about a dozen special requests and the marginal costs are zero.

Rep. Hahn explained there is an issue with property tax in her district and though Pennsylvania ranks 24th in property taxes, her district would rank higher. She asked if the IFO has done studies showing what would happen if the state were to reduce or eliminate property tax and shift to an increase in personal income tax and sales tax. Knittel responded that they have not done a recent analysis, but in 2012 and 2013, the IFO looked at the trade-off between school district property tax and a shift to personal income tax and sales tax.

Rep. White stated that Philadelphia has a large percentage of impoverished people, and with a minimum wage increase there would still potentially be people dependent on welfare but no longer able to qualify. Knittel said he did not look at the specific parts of the state but looked at the issue statewide. Rep. White asked if the IFO has identified any incentives that attract the worker age group and seniors. Knittel noted that Pennsylvania has a good college system and a lot of people are coming from out of state. He added Pennsylvania does not have a large influx of the elderly coming into the state.

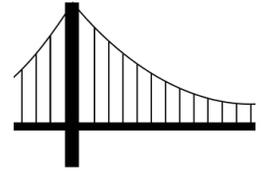
Rep. Warner asked if there are any statistics regarding how many small businesses would close because of the raise in minimum wage. Knittel said that can be included in the analysis.

Rep. Fiedler commented that the committee has talked a lot about Seattle, but another study showed that after the minimum wage increase there was no actual increase in prices. She said there is a lot of research on this topic.

Rep. Greiner inquired how much revenues C Corporations have. Knittel replied 10 percent. Rep. Greiner asked if it would be the larger corporations that combined reporting would impact. Knittel said the top 500 corporations pay 80 percent of the total tax. Rep. Greiner noted this is interesting to consider since Pennsylvania has tried to draw larger businesses such as Amazon.

Chairman Bradford commented that \$7.25 is a poverty wage and does not provide for one's family or even oneself. He noted that even a state as red as Arkansas has sought to raise the minimum wage. He added that on combined reporting, the issue being missed is that CNI is too high, but no one has the courage to cut CNI. Chairman Bradford said Gov. Wolf decided an appropriate way to do a no-tax budget and one-time use revenues were, in many cases, put out by the majority.

Chairman Saylor added that raising the minimum wage will cost good paying jobs. He said minimum wage jobs are for high school and college students, not for a real job to sustain a family. Chairman Saylor noted that if the wage is raised, the jobs for students to help pay for tuition will be gone. He stated looking at raising the minimum wage will only hurt the younger generation, and the state needs to control spending. Chairman Saylor commented that the senior population is retiring so



there are jobs opening up far above minimum wage. He added that the General Assembly continues to think it can take more and more from the taxpayer when it is not looking at the performance of current programs the state already has. Chairman Saylor said both sides of the aisle want to get people out of poverty, but there are two ways to do so. He said raising the minimum wage is not going to solve it and the state should expand the career training education program.

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## **House and Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committees**

*February 11, 2019, G-50 Irvis Office Building*

By Robert Cochran, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The Senate and House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness committees held a joint informational hearing with the PA War Veterans Council, State Veterans Commission, Office of State Fire Commissioner, and the PA Civil Air Patrol regarding their programs and legislative initiatives. The committee also heard from Lt. Colonel Anthony Shaffer regarding national security interests and voting machines.

Chairman Barrar said this joint hearing is an annual meeting to update the committee members of the issues and programs which the committee has oversight of. Sen. Hutchinson thanked the committee for holding the hearing.

[Keith Beebe](#), legislative chairman for the Pennsylvania War Veterans Council, claimed that Act 66 of 2007, the Veterans Service Organizations Outreach and Assistance Program, is “the most successful state-funded veterans’ program in the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs,” because it impacts more residents than any other program. The program “doubled the annual production of new disability compensations claims in this state,” Beebe said. He added that the program “ensures our veterans receive the guidance and services they need” in a timely fashion. Beebe stated that although obtaining veterans’ benefits “can be a complex, confusing process,” the Veterans Service Organizations Outreach and Assistance Program hires employees to help residents navigate through federal and state guidelines for receiving services. He said the programs’ employees get involved in numerous services for veterans, including mental health care referrals, financial aid, suicide prevention, homelessness, Medicare, “and much more.”

According to Beebe, the program provided no legacy cost to the commonwealth and employees work for a smaller wages than Veterans Administration (VA) employees because the program operates as contractors under a grant. Despite that, he added, the program “has not been funded as originally promised by past adjutant generals.”

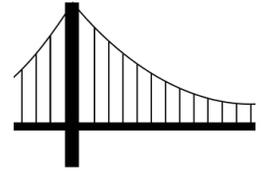
“Today, less than 75 percent of the total cost of the program is covered,” Beebe said. “This therefore greatly impacts funds the veterans’ organizations would normally provide to other efforts.”

Because of inadequate funding, Beebe indicated, the program’s maintenance and expansion is in jeopardy. “The American Legion and the VFW, the two largest organizations involved, regularly report high turnovers of personnel,” Beebe said. He claimed a government employee doing similar work makes about 50 percent higher wages historically. “Our organizations must be able to compete with the offering of state and federal government and the private sector, which can pay better.”

Beebe requested an increase of funding from \$400,000 to \$500,000. He indicated past adjutant generals pledged the increase the past five years, but “only two of those five promised increases have occurred.” Beebe urged the committee to support funding the Veterans Service Organizations Outreach and Assistance Program.

Beebe asked the committee to conduct a comprehensive study to look at the long-term assistance needs for veterans. He also indicated that the council was supportive of legislation which would regulate the pay day loan industry because of their practices.

Beebe asked the committee to consider legislation which would allow veterans to apply for a post-conviction review of their sentences if Post-Traumatic-Stress-Disorder (PTSD) or traumatic brain injury (TBI) incurred while serving in the armed



forces. “In addition, we propose to supplement the Veterans Court movement by adding the requirement that every county district court of common pleas take positive steps to identify veterans appearing before them and perform...pre-sentencing investigations for PTSD and TBI,” he stated.

“In the current judicial system, veterans slip through the cracks, and the adverse effects of PTSD and TBI are frequently not known or considered during the sentencing phase,” Beebe said. He requested a subcommittee to be formed regarding legal concerns for veterans with PTSD and TBI.

Beebe encouraged establishing a state bonus for a veterans’ service in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. He also indicated the Veterans Transportation Network, which provides free transportation to medical facilities for injured and ill veterans in the commonwealth, has a “barely adequate” vehicle fleet and the Disabled Veterans of America organization, which runs the program, seeks increased funding to continue the service.

According to Beebe, the council included care for veterans with substance abuse disorders to the list of key veterans’ issues. He also asked for the committee to consider issues concerning veteran suicide rates.

[Sam Petrovich](#), chairman of the Pennsylvania State Veterans Commission, said the commission included 21 members from numerous military and veterans agencies and organizations. Petrovich explained the Act 66 committee within the commission was created to assist the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) with drafting guidelines for the Veterans Service Officer Grant Program and to maximize the usage of taxpayer funds. The commission “will concentrate on several different areas, stating with the improvement of metrics used to measure grantee performance under the program,” Petrovich added.

About the Act 66 committee, Petrovich said the committee would “enhance grantee reporting procedures that will allow for a more in-depth review of the programs overall performance, thereby allowing the SBC to provide more focused recommendations to the adjutant general regarding the administration of the program.”

Petrovich indicated the legislative committee of the State Veterans Council focused on researching and developing legislative proposals regarding the health and welfare of Pennsylvania veterans and their families. He added that the Pension & Relief/ Grave Marking/Cemetery Committee was another committee within the commission charged with making recommendations to the DMVA concerning pension, veterans’ graves and maintenance of state military cemeteries.

According to Petrovich, the Real Estate Tax Exemption Committee focused on the administration of the Disabled and Paralyzed Veterans Real Estate Tax Exemption Program. He indicated the committee is developing recommendations for legislative changes to include all veterans who die in in the line of duty eligible for the exemption, not just those killed in action; and to remove the requirement of serving during wartime.

Petrovich said the committee conducted a survey of the implementation of the current real estate tax exemption law, finding that some tax assessment authorities prorate, many do not; and that many tax authorities do not properly backdate the tax relief. “The committee’s position is that the system should be fair and equitable to all veterans who receive tax relief and should not be dependent on the taxing authority,” he said.

Chairman Barrar said the Veterans Service Organizations Outreach and Assistance Program is not funded the way it should be and asked what the average salary of an employee working through the program is. A veteran in the audience responded \$30,000. Chairman Barrar said the committee’s new members may not be familiar with the program. He said the program provides for a veteran service officer to assist residents regarding services in a House member’s district office. Because of better budget numbers and a stronger economy, Chairman Barrar said, there is more support for the program. He added that he hopes the funding could be increased for this program.

Mike Hillman, Democratic executive director for the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Services Committee, indicated the minority chairman would attempt incorporate Line-of-Duty death in the real estate tax exemption program in legislation



this session. Hillman said last session the legislation almost passed, and the committee is currently looking to improve the language this session.

Chairman Barrar asked to include line of duty deaths in the program, would the constitution need amended. Petrovich said the subcommittee has not gone far enough to know how they can do this, or how quickly. Chairman Barrar stated if a veteran is 100 percent disabled, they are eligible for the exemption, but if a person is killed in action, they are not eligible for the exemption. Upcoming legislation would address that concern, as well as the requirement of serving during wartime, Chairman Barrar stated.

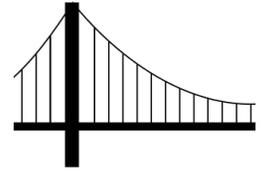
Regarding the real estate tax exemption, Sen. Hutchinson asked why some tax authorities prorate while some do not. Matt Zamosky, president of the State Association of County Directors and chair of the Real Estate Tax Exemption Committee, summarized the process of applying for the exemption. Zamosky said some counties prorate based on date stamp when submitting an application rather than a literal interpretation of law, providing relief sooner than the law mandates. Zamosky said that process is not uniform across the commonwealth. Sen. Hutchinson asked if it would be better to provide the exemption from the date the application was stamped, rather than the literal interpretation of the law. Zamosky said he was unsure because, if someone is denied, then they could lose money rather than benefiting from the program. Sen. Hutchinson asked if it should the exemption be uniform across the commonwealth; Zamosky agreed. Zamosky indicated the exemption was initially intended for veterans only, but eventually was expanded for spouses of veterans who have died after returning from service. The exemption was expanded recently to include the spouse of a service member who died from cancer, but was not considered 100 percent disabled before death, he added. Zamosky stated, if someone is killed in the line of duty, their spouse does not receive the exemption. Regarding the constitutional amendment, Zamosky said Chairman Barrar was correct that one would be needed. Chairman Barrar said that the issue is complicated. Rick O'Leary, Republican executive director for the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, said the when a service member is killed in action, the federal Department of Veterans Affairs does not rate the death as a disability, and the Pennsylvania Constitution requires a resident to be 100 percent disabled. Zamosky indicated if service member died in the line of duty, spouses received Dependency and Indemnity Compensation. Zamosky said the benefit is exclusive to line of duty deaths, and does not compensation deaths due to gross misconduct. O'Leary said if a service member dies in the line of duty without gross misconduct the spouse could still receive the exemption. Zamosky agreed, and said likewise if the service member did not die, but became 100 percent disabled.

About the exemption, Rep. Gillen commented that some taxing authorities may be violating the uniformity clause of the constitution by not issuing the tax equally across the state. Zamosky said he could not add to that aspect. Rep. Gillen said case law could rely on the uniformity issue. Rep. Gillen asked about data on prorating. Zamosky said he does not have information currently, but cautioned against expanding eligibility because veterans without a disability may experience an increase in taxes.

A veteran audience member remarked that the request for more funding for the Veterans Service Organizations Outreach and Assistance does not relate to wages, rather for the program itself. He said nine legislators currently requested a veteran service officer to assist residents, but there is not enough staff employed to do so. He indicated employees may receive a bonus, but the uncertainty around increased funding from the General Assembly disrupts the program. The veteran concluded indicating the council is promoting a survey to understand how legislators feel about the program.

Petrovich said the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) provided legislators the lowest grant amount they could receive without layoffs. Petrovich said the DAV recently trained an employee to understand the veterans programs, but after the Department of Veterans Affairs hired him because they offer higher wages. Chairman Barrar understood the concern regarding low salary.

Rep. O'Mara, wife of a disabled veteran, said she understood the difficulty and asked about the outreach to younger veterans to know about the Veterans Service Organizations Outreach and Assistance, and if data was available on veterans substance abuse disorder, particularly about opioids and suicide rates. She asked if this information could be received in the future, and suggested holding a public hearing on those topics.



Nathan Silcox, executive director for Sen. Mike Regan (R-Cumberland), asked if the Real Estate Tax Exemption Program remained to be the top issue for veterans. Zamosky said adding the line of duty death and removing service during wartime requirement were the top concerns. Silcox asked how the requirements impact the spouses of service members killed in action. Zamosky clarified that killed in action is a line of duty death, but by limiting the benefits to those killed in action numerous spouses are ineligible.

Petrovich said Pennsylvania was second in the nation for volunteer drivers, hours worked and vehicle mileage for the Veterans Transportation Network program. He added Pennsylvania ranked first in providing transportation to scheduled medical appointments. Petrovich added that flat funding would not be able to keep pace with veterans' needs. He encouraged increasing funding for the program.

Chairman Barrar asked how vehicle turnover was handled. Petrovich said usually mileage, but also repair history. Chairman Barrar indicated a drive off celebration of the program would occur this summer. Rep. Gillen said a federal grant exists that provides for rural transportation. Zamosky indicated that he thinks the program is not eligible for the grant because they already receive federal assistance.

Zamosky said the Veterans Transportation Network program does assist individuals in the commonwealth by allowing them to access medical benefits. Chairman Barrar asked if adding the adult daycare would burden the program. Zamosky said veterans do receive transportation for those types of programs on an availability basis and may cause stress on the system.

[Bruce Trego](#), State Fire Commissioner, discussed the priorities of the Office of State Fire Commissioner for 2019. He remarked that Gov. Tom Wolf remains committed to both paid and volunteer fire service in the commonwealth. "The Fire Company, Emergency Medical Service Grant Program (FCEMSGP) is one of the most important programs for the fire service," Trego said. The State Fire Commissioner remarked the program is up for reauthorization in 2020, but the needs of the program need addressed now. According to Trego, the grant program awarded 1,973 grants to fire companies and 512 grants to volunteer ambulance services. "The average grant to a fire department was \$13,380 and the grants provided to ambulance services averaged \$7,037."

Trego indicated the Volunteer Loan Assistance Program (VLAP) "is one of the major sources of funding for our volunteer fire companies and volunteer ambulance services." He stated the program provides help with the construction of new buildings, acquisition of apparatus and the purchase of equipment. Trego commented that changes to the law in 2013 increased the loan amounts and extended the repayment period. His office "provides an average of \$2 million in low interest loans in addition to managing the loans that have already been approved." Despite the success of VLAP, Trego urged the General Assembly to consider expanding the program to include fire service and ambulance services in third class cities "while also increasing the amount of loans to be reflected of the current cost of equipment and facilities."

Trego said there were numerous matters the Office of the State Fire Commissioner would like to address this year, including recruitment and retention in the volunteer fire service. "This issue has reached a crisis in the commonwealth," he opined. "Since the 1980s, the number of volunteers has shrunk from approximately 300,000 to around 38,000 today."

According to Trego, the [SR 6](#), report developed recommendations for the General Assembly on how to improve fire services in the commonwealth. He remarked that the 27 recommendations developed by the group include expanding tax credits for Fire and EMS personnel, length of service awards programs (LOSAP), free community college or state university system tuition funding, basic fire and emergency medical technician training for all firefighters and EMS personnel to address the challenges of recruiting and retraining members.

The State Fire Commissioner indicated that Act 172 of 2016 provided for the creation of a local tax credit program for volunteer firefighters and EMS. "Each municipality now has the option to implement a program if they feel that it is appropriate for their community," Trego said. "To date, 47 municipalities have implemented such programs."

Trego claimed that in 2017 the commonwealth lost more firefighters to suicide than line of duty deaths. He also stated that



firefighters have at least a 30 percent higher risk of contracting cancer than the public. “My focus is to improve behavioral health and cancer awareness,” Trego said, calling the issue “paramount to improve our ability to recruit and retain first responders in the commonwealth.”

Another priority for 2019 would be to update the Firefighter Relief Fund law, Trego said. He said that upon meetings with the Department of Revenue, Department of Insurance and committee chairs last session that the language of the law was outdated. Trego indicated that the term “fire” is no longer used by insurance companies. He remarked that another similar problem facing the law was related to those who are self-insuring.

Chairman Barrar congratulated Trego to be promoted to full commissioner.

Rep. Farry said \$39 million was taken out of the VLAP program to fund the budget. The representative said he was supportive of expanding that grant program to entities that do not have the ability to apply. Rep. Farry said it is important for the governor to know how much money was taken out of the VLAP program.

Rep Farry continued, saying SR 6 included recommendations to ramp up staffing in the fire commissioner’s office, but the governor’s initial proposal keeps the office flat funded. The representative said it would be important to see additional funds need to go to the fire commissioner’s office. He remarked additional resources would be needed to provide regional coordinators to help fire service. Rep. Farry said this committee would assist the fire commissioner in receiving additional funds. Legislation on local tax incentive program was received late last session, the representative said, adding there was not enough time to do anything with the bill. He said local municipalities are offering alternative solutions instead of tax breaks. The representative said SR 6 suggesting modifying the law to expand the program to counties and school districts.

Rep. Farry said he appreciated the fire commissioner’s concerns with cancer among firefighters, and stated public hearings would be held regarding cancer insurance claims. The representative that said in Philadelphia, all cancer insurance claims made by firefighters are denied automatically. Despite losing a lawsuit on the matter, insurance companies in Philadelphia continued to deny all claims, Rep. Farry said.

Rep. Farry said the decline of relief funds is important to understand, and if the problem continues fire companies could reach a crisis. The representative said his comments were not a criticism of the fire commission himself, rather just things he felt were important to highlight.

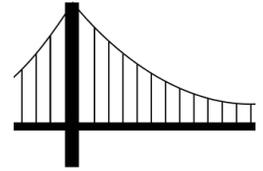
Rep. Farry said the Department of Labor and Industry (L&I) issued a report regarding junior firefighter training, and meetings are being scheduled for this week about the issue. He said that L&I placed restrictions on training based on their interpretation of statute. Rep. Farry said he hoped these issues could be resolved to improve the retention of firefighters in the commonwealth.

Rep. Webster asked about the amount of training to become a full-time fireman. Trego said his office requires no training, just the required federal guidelines. Trego said the commonwealth divided the entry level training program into different levels to allow municipalities to train firefighters accordingly.

Rep. Webster asked about cancer issues, questioning if it a generational problem. Trego said a lot of the time it was because of generational stigma against equipment. The fire commissioner added melanoma around neck sometimes resulted from a dirty hood. He added that although protective clothing helps, they need to be cleaned as quickly as possible.

Rep. Gillen asked if the commonwealth should recalibrate the dollar amount generated for fire service. Trego said it could be examined, but not one thing would work across the entirety of commonwealth, and that younger firefighters may not benefit from a tax rebate. Rep. Gillen said younger firefighters would like to waive the cost of vehicle registration. The commissioner said waiving registration “warrants investigation,” but the best solution will vary across the commonwealth.

Rep. O’Mara said her father was Philadelphia firefighter who died from suicide. She thanked the fire commissioner for



his commitment on the issue. Chairman Barrar said Wednesday's meeting will discuss PTSD with first responders and mentioned to new committee members to review SR 6.

Hillman clarified Trego's testimony regarding third class cities qualifications for VLAP, asking if the commissioner meant career departments. Trego said he would have to rely on staff to know which ones are eligible. Hillman asked if the fire commissioner was broadly speaking about career, which Trego confirmed.

Hillman asked what the current specifications on the loans and where he would like to see it go. The fire commissioner said he would like to look at what new vehicles and facilities cost. Hillman asked if he was concerned regarding passing a ballot initiative to get the funding again.

O'Leary commented that the funding was a voter referendum reauthorized during Gov. Tom Ridge's term through the ballot initiative. Hillman asked career firefighters could be included in the referendum. O'Leary said the initial question was about volunteer firefighters, so legislation would have to approve it for career firefighters.

Rep. Farry said one of the issues of Act 172 was that it only applies to the municipal property tax rate. Different nuances to the law complicated the enactment, Rep. Farry said.

[Colonel Gary Fleming](#), commander of the Pennsylvania Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, and [Lt. Colonel Kevin Barry](#), vice commander of the Pennsylvania Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, provided to the committee a summary of the Civil Air Patrol's history. Colonel Fleming testified that last year 80 percent of their state appropriation went towards training; four percent went to travel for management, administration, inspection and attending events; eight percent went to utility expenses; and eight percent went to stationary supplies. Fleming said it was his intent to make certain state funds would be used appropriately and to "provide a meaningful and substantial return on investment for the dollars we receive.

Fleming thanked Sen. Regan for introducing [SB 128](#), which would codify the relationship between the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the Pennsylvania Wing of the Civil Air Patrol.

Chairman Barrar indicated this would be the first time in seven years that their appropriation funding was not zeroed-out by the governor and the committee would work to ensure it would remain. Rep. Gillen thanked the civil air patrol's commitment in Berks County during the World War II weekend meeting. Rep. Gillen recognized the Carl Spatz Award as the civil air patrol's highest cadet honor. He indicated Spatz was Berks County native born in 1891.

[Lt. Colonel Anthony Shaffer](#), cyber operations expert, discussed the national security implications of voting security, and the vulnerabilities of some voting machines. According to Shaffer, foreign adversaries have adopted technology able to manipulate our information systems. He said technology and voting security were at the forefront of national security conversation. Shaffer said President Donald Trump called for using paper ballots compared to electronic voting methods. Shaffer disclosed to the committee he was a campaign advisor for President Trump, but said both parties should be concerned with voter security.

Shaffer said Gov. Wolf's budget to address this issue was \$15 million, but said the appropriate amount would be upwards of \$150 million. He said Pennsylvania is important to the issue of voter security because the commonwealth will be targeted by foreign adversaries due to its "swing state" status. Shaffer said foreign adversaries attempt to disrupt election results because of the impact it would have on democracy, not policy. Shaffer stated that Pennsylvania has uses direct recording electronic (DRE) voting systems. He said DRE systems do not provide any written record of the information placed into the system raising concern around voting security. Shaffer said the alternative, optical scan systems, allow for physical paper trail. Shaffer indicated optical scan systems are more secure and suggested to adopt Virginia's voting system. Electronic voting machines had flaws built into them which could be manipulated to simulate an individual's vote, Shaffer said. He said the full scope of cyber threats were not known at the time they were developed. The idea that because the voting machines are not on the internet, and therefore they cannot be manipulated is incorrect, Shaffer said. The Department of Defense invested resources into figuring out ways closed-system technology could be manipulated, Shaffer stated. He



said the system could be manipulated by an individual to skew voting machines, so foreign adversaries are look at how to attack these “vulnerable digital systems.” Shaffer said the Department of Homeland Security is working with states to switch to technology which requires paper ballots. He indicated the commonwealth has not transitioned into the new system. Shaffer said the stakes will never be higher than the outcome of the 2020 election. Shaffer said although the governor understands the concern, he has not invested enough resources into the issue of voting security. He added that after the Florida controversy in 2000, electronic voting machines were adopted, creating a secondary vulnerability in the election process. Shaffer said the one-time expense to update Pennsylvania’s voting machines would be worth the expense, and would still allow for votes to be counted both rapidly and safely.

Chairman Barrar said Shaffer made a strong argument, but said the committee may not have the answers to the all the problems regarding voter security. Chairman Barrar asked how closed-system technology could be manipulated without internet connection. Shaffer said he had to be cautious in responding, but that when upgrading voting machines, vulnerabilities exist from outside parties.

Minority Chairman Chris Sainato asked what the commonwealth should do to prepare for the potential hacking of voter machines. Shaffer explained it would be best for Pennsylvania to adopt similar voting methods as Virginia which requires a paper in their electronic voting machine which utilizes an optical scanner. Minority chairman Sainato asked what the significance of using an optical scanner is. Shaffer stated the scanner allows for a physical artifact to maintain track of votes in the election.

Rep. Gillen asked for an example of voting machine being compromised in the commonwealth. Shaffer said that he is not aware of any voting machines being compromised in Pennsylvania, but in other states voting registration databases have been attempted to be compromised. Rep. Gillen asked where Pennsylvania was in incorporating the optical system. Shaffer said 17 counties which have introduced it are in a strong state and should be reauthorized.

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### **House Appropriations Committee budget hearing with DCNR (BH)**

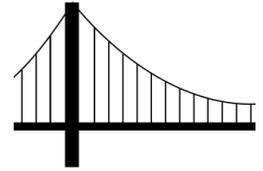
*2/14/19, 1:00 p.m., Room 140 Main Capitol*

By Mike Howells, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee held a budget hearing with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), represented by Sec. Cindy Dunn, Deputy Secretary for Parks and Forestry John Norbeck, Deputy Secretary for Conservation and Technical services Lauren Imgrund, and Deputy Secretary for Administration Michael Walsh.

Rep. Grove asked about the governor’s proposed budget and the shifting of \$102 million of DCNR appropriations offline to instead come from the Environmental Stewardship Fund, the Keystone Fund, and the Oil and Gas Lease Fund, with an effective increase to the department of 9.2 percent. Sec. Dunn noted the governor proposed a no-tax-increase budget and said in every budget, the administration has to find a way to make ends meet. She indicated it has been fairly common for the Oil and Gas Lease Fund to underlay the department’s operations, but said this is the first time the Keystone Fund and the Environmental Stewardship Fund have done so. Sec. Dunn said the move gives DCNR the ability to perform its mission, and emphasized they remain committed to meeting the requirements of the two other funds.

Rep. Grove cited remarks made by Sec. Dunn in a [press release issued in 2017](#) in which the secretary warned that moving money out of the Keystone and Environmental Stewardship funds would risk infrastructure projects as well as private jobs. He asked what the difference is between the governor’s new proposal and the one from 2017, which was floated by House Republicans, in light of DCNR’s differing reactions to each. Sec. Dunn explained how the department is committing future years to the same level of projects, tagging funds to the year they will be called upon. Rep. Grove suggested the only difference is that this year it is the governor’s proposal. Sec. Dunn acknowledged every year is different and said since 2017 they have looked at the issue, and in speaking with communities have learned many want a significant up-front payment. She said the Keystone Fund requires any interest gained on its money be used for a given project, and many communities



did not want to be responsible for putting funds in escrow. She said this time they can plan to educate communities on how to approach that expectation, whereas last time they would have had to do it “on the fly.”

Minority Chairman Bradford noted Department of Environmental Protection Sec. McDonnell answered a similar line of questioning about two years ago regarding special funds at the committee’s earlier hearing with that department. He credited the administration for a budget that invests in the environment, but also remarked that the use of restricted environmental funds as proposed is problematic to many. He questioned the sustainability of using restricted funds to sustain DCNR lines. He emphasized however that the proposal ought to be considered in the context of a possible severance tax that would fund the proposed Restore PA initiative. Sec. Dunn spoke to DCNR’s commitment to state parks, forests and trails in all districts of the state. She acknowledged Chairman Bradford’s remarks concerning Restore PA and added there are things that keep her “awake at night,” including flood mitigation. She noted the department owns and manages most of the state’s high hazard dams, 32 of which are structurally deficient or have insufficient spillways. She said the Keystone Fund is a stable revenue stream that supports routine infrastructure work, but dam replacements, for example, are a “big ticket” item that require something the scope of Restore PA.

Chairman Saylor asked for details on DCNR’s work on those 32 dams. Sec. Dunn explained they were able to restore two big ones, including the George B. Stevenson Dam, located in a very flood-prone area. She said the H2O Fund, now defunct, had funded that work. She continued that they identify several dams every year to work on. “These are huge projects, way beyond the reach of the Keystone Fund,” she emphasized.

Rep. Quinn expressed concern of the potential for millions of dollars coming out of the Environmental Stewardship Fund that areas like his depend on. He asked if the department has sufficient funding to complete its projects. Sec. Dunn noted a lot of project requests come from Quinn’s region of the state, and demand there is high, with a constant unmet need. Restore PA, she said, would help with waterway cleanup and other related initiatives at the scale required.

Rep. Quinn questioned whether Sec. Dunn is concerned the initiative isn’t just “a one time thing.” Sec. Dunn said they are committed to carrying out programs on the level they see today. She pointed out that still means only being able to accept roughly half of all requests.

Rep. McCarter opined that state parks are a key element of Pennsylvania’s appeal and important for the amount of money they generate for the commonwealth. He said he shares Chairman Bradford’s concern over the long term impact of the transfer of funds. Focusing on infrastructure of parks, he said there is a tremendous need, not just for work on dams, but vehicle bridges, pedestrian bridges, buildings and trails. He remarked they are going to have to be dealt with at some point or shut down, which they don’t want to do. Rep. McCarter remarked that whether through Restore PA or not, there is a need to make sure projects get underway. He discussed the need for greater flexibility for DCNR and DEP to be able to maximize the best possible means of dealing with things like floodwaters, for instance through floodplain buyouts which he said are currently restricted. Sec. Dunn reported they have maintained discussions with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) about floodplain buyouts and think there is a DCNR role there. She said she is not sure DCNR is restricted on such things but would need to be approached by floodplain managers.

Sec. Dunn continued, remarking that when it comes to infrastructure other than dams, people think of the department as a “great outdoors agency,” but in fact the agency has 4,700 buildings, numerous of which date to the Civilian Conservation Corps era of the 1930s.

Rep. McCarter asked for details in the income generated from state parks. Norbeck said they earn \$26 million a year. Sec. Dunn said there is a far greater impact on the economy at large, and they support 13,000 jobs. Sec. Dunn noted Pennsylvania is fifth in the nation in terms of outdoor economy. She remarked DCNR’s investments in outdoor recreation and infrastructure pay back into the economy directly, in addition to positive effects on quality of life and the retention of young people in the state.

Rep. Fritz discussed state forests and asked about DCNR’s partnerships with natural gas developers there. He identified



specifically Seneca Resources and its presence in Elk State Forest. Sec. Dunn said there are two types of partnerships on public land - leaseholders, and companies that own mineral rights under state lands, which she characterized as a less formal relationship. She explained those relationships have grown in recent years and they have really responded, adding to the value of state forests. Sec. Dunn advised they have set up a natural gas advisory committee for interfacing on conservation, development, and other matters. She noted there is a moratorium on new leases but they have a legal agreement with existing leaseholders that is working very well.

Sec. Dunn went on, explaining there are 348,000 acres of DCNR's 2.2 million total to which it does not own the mineral rights, and they are seeing new companies emerge and are reaching out to them. Seneca in particular is an old one we have a great relationship with, she added.

Speaking to Growing Greener funding from the natural gas impact tax, Rep. Fritz asked how much DCNR anticipates awarding this fiscal year. Sec. Dunn said the Oil and Gas Lease Fund is up to \$84 million this year, and a large portion supports DCNR's operating budget. To the Environmental Stewardship Fund, which is a tipping fee fund, she said it is also part of the department's operating budget and to provide grants to other projects. Both funds are performing under their obligations, she said.

Rep. Fiedler noted that over the last few years DCNR has taken steps to address climate change challenges, including improving water quality and energy conservation and renewables. Sec. Dunn said she is proud they were out early on the issue, developing a climate white paper and then a climate action plan last year. She said DCNR has to demonstrate in real terms its dedication to conservation. On public lands she said they have a green sustainability initiative and 17 LEED certified buildings, replacing aging infrastructure with modern HVAC and lighting, a network of electric vehicle charging stations, and now up to 19 solar arrays in state parks. Further, she said the governor's executive order has charged DEP, DGS and DCNR with specific goals for climate response. "We're pretty enthused," she said.

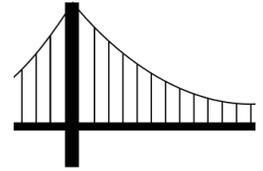
Rep. Fiedler asked specifically for details on the department's adaptive management practices on public lands. Sec. Dunn just like the private sector, DCNR lands have experienced lots of flood damage. As they are developing their infrastructure, Sec. Dunn said, they are bearing in mind the increasing frequency of such events, and also assessing partnerships with local parks to that end.

Rep. Hahn asked if there is anything new to expect in the coming year in terms of invasive species, and how would it affect the DCNR budget. Sec. Dunn said it's an ongoing challenge, with a menu of new invasives each year. She noted the Department of Agriculture is the lead on the spotted lanternfly, and keeping that from affecting state's forest products industry is a challenge. Sec. Dunn said DCNR has a strong forest pest control unit that works with Ag trying to develop something to take out the spotted lanternfly. She noted that increased flooding did help keep gypsy moths down, but acknowledged continuing concern over impacts to ash trees.

Rep. Hahn asked how DCNR is working with Ag and Penn State on the spotted lanternfly. Norbeck explained Ag has put together a multi-entity task force including the federal government and Penn State to identify where pests are and which trees are affected. He noted they are working on using trees of heaven as bait. He acknowledged it is a complicated process and part of the research is to find out what their next target may be. He told members they are never going to get rid of all spotted lanternflies but thinks Pennsylvania has a good tactic to reduce their spread.

Rep. Krueger said one positive she sees in the budget is moving debt service from Growing Greener to another revenue source in the General Fund. Sec. Dunn agreed it is good news. Rep. Krueger underscored concerns over using these restricted funds for operating expenses. She emphasized they were meant for other purposes, which is why they are restricted funds.

Rep. Krueger asked if whether the money was not being diverted from the restricted fund, it go to water projects. Sec. Dunn confirmed that. Rep. Krueger asked the number of applicants getting funded. Sec. Dunn said 60 percent last year but reiterated they are committing to maintaining the level of funding they had last year in these programs to continue meeting



needs. Rep. Krueger asked the circumstances for rejecting the other 40 percent. Sec. Dunn some had technical issues, but the sad truth is they didn't have the funds to say yes to them all. She pointed out that's been true throughout the life of the grant programs. She underscored, "There's a huge demand out there."

Rep. Krueger said almost every part of her district has benefited at some point from these grant programs, and asked if there is a match requirement. Sec. Dunn said they have to match a certain amount and many overmatch. She added that is why they would love Restore PA to come in to help match demand. Rep. Krueger asked if the grants therefore help leverage additional public and private dollars. Sec. Dunn said "absolutely."

Rep. Brown asked about DCNR's dams and the many which are privately owned. She said in working on the issue she became aware of the classification of high hazard dams and associated regulatory components. She said she felt in some ways they are not as conducive as they should be regarding balancing public safety and costs. Sec. Dunn said the regulation is held by DEP, and DCNR falls under it as a dam owner. When a dam they own is high hazard and gets classified as deficient, Sec. Dunn explained, sometimes the answer is to remove it, as was done in Cumberland and Luzerne counties, for example. She said some areas do have people who care about the dams, so they focus on replacements in state parks. At that time they take opportunity to remove silt and improve surrounding infrastructure, she said. On the regulation, Sec. Dunn opined she it is not excessive because the risk of failure in a situation where the state could have acted is problematic.

Rep. Brown also asked about Lyme disease, with Pennsylvania number one in the country in reported cases. She noted the work of the Tick Lab at East Stroudsburg University, and said the situation is a public health crisis. Sec. Dunn said they are working closely with the Department of Health and DEP on the issue. She noted DEP has added ticks to its monitoring program and DOH is working on disease control. Sec. Dunn said it is a threat to DCNR maintenance workers, and a threat to recreation. She reported they have launched an educational effort on outdoor prep to deter ticks, which is on the department website with a new push every spring.

Rep. Kim estimated that DCNR has a list of projects for infrastructure repairs totaling \$800 million and out of that total, asked how much is going to be chipped away in 2019 and how much will cost rise from kicking the rest down the road. Sec. Dunn noted about \$200 million is abandoned mine reclamation. She said they can only tackle a portion each year though their capital budget and Keystone Fund. Sec. Dunn said every year a needed capital improvement is delayed, costs go up around six percent. In that way she said it really makes sense to do a bond issue to tackle projects now and pay off over time. Norbeck said DCNR has \$4 billion worth of infrastructure, from over 135 dams, 78 sewage treatment plants, and other facilities. He said this year they will spend \$15.6 million of capital funds, \$30 million from the Keystone Fund, and \$10 million from the Environmental Stewardship Fund, along with a small amount from the Oil and Gas Lease Fund to tackle its backlog. Rep. Kim asked what are considered DCNR's top projects. Sec. Dunn said dams are always a top concern, but they are also eager to do some public facing improvements. She noted for example that Presque Isle has been "loved to death" and needs work, along with Delaware Canal State Park.

Rep. Greiner asked about natural gas development, and how much revenue will royalties on state forest lands generate in 2019-20 versus prior years. Sec. Dunn said this year their budget will receive \$84 million. Norbeck remarked that for 2018-19 DCNR got \$81 million and for 2017-18 \$80 million. He noted they are only expecting three rigs to be on state forest lands this year so production is not going up a lot. Volume of gas wells generally goes down from day one, he noted. Rep. Greiner asked if the state has reached a high point on revenues from leases. Sec. Dunn said it is probably a combination of reasons, but mostly production declines as opposed to the price of natural gas.

Rep. Greiner asked how the state is ensuring it is receiving the revenues owed in terms of royalty collections. Norbeck explained they have a very robust audit process in DCNR, with an accounting audit in the Bureau of Forestry looking at monthly reports from gas companies with production figures, and verifying against their lease terms. He said they have also contracted with Penn State to do a volumetric audit annually, auditing one-third of the total each year looking for volume being reported to the state and what's coming out of the wellheads. He noted they have recovered \$3.1 million in back-owed funds through that process. Norbeck added they will continue to find places where they are underpaid, in part because companies not used to dealing with leases that include floors.



Rep. Greiner noted the tree of heaven is itself an invasive species. Norbeck said DCNR is only leaving some as bait trees and eventually wants to get rid of them as well.

Rep. Heffley commended the secretary on a number of projects she's done and quipped that people are being encouraged to enjoy the great outdoors while at the same time discussions are focusing on a number of pests in Pennsylvania. Regarding the use of special fund money, he said he's hesitant by proposals to backfill those dollars with borrowing and asked about top funding sources for the department. Sec. Dunn replied the Keystone Fund is the "annual workhorse fund" that the department depends on and it also receives a portion of capital funds (this year \$15 million), another \$10 million from the Environmental Stewardship Fund, and also receives Oil and Gas Fund money. Looking at the scale of infrastructure needed, she said, "It is huge." She pointed out that the return on investment is excellent for the department, noting that tourism would not be the number two industry without the recreation and conservation mission of the department. She emphasized that investment in public recreation and conservation infrastructure returns quality of life and dollars to the economy.

Rep. Heffley also offered his thoughts that some sort of enhanced user fees may help bring in revenues to enhance those parks that are impacted by overcrowding because a lot of folks are coming from out of state to utilize those amenities.

Lastly, Rep. Heffley spoke about tourism in his region and mentioned conflicts with energy development, specifically wind turbines. Sec. Dunn confirmed the law does not allow for wind development in the state parks and also mentioned the moratorium on oil and gas leases. She said the public lands are "special" and suggested they should be looked at differently than private lands. She said she would not promote wind development on state lands, and pointed out the solar arrays being installed in state parks are being put on existing infrastructure.

Rep. Lawrence asked about the Lyme Timber deal and specifically pointed out that the deal provided for public access, but disputed that it will be true public access. Sec. Dunn confirmed the loan has been dispersed and that she has reviewed the terms of the deed restriction. She said she's promoting forest conservation easements generally as part of the effort to support the forest product industry. Rep. Lawrence did not dispute the value of Pennsylvania's forests or preserving them, but questioned the use of money from a fund that should go to other products and the lack of public access that is emerging from the deal. He again asked about public access under the deal and whether the public access infrastructure plan required under the deal has been formulated. Sec. Dunn pointed out forest land does clean water and Norbeck confirmed the plan has been formulated and is available to the public. He agreed to provide a copy to the committee and explained the general idea is that the property will look and feel like a state forest. Rep. Lawrence wondered about handicapped access and Norbeck confirmed "we provided handicapped access, absolutely." Sec. Dunn added that does not necessarily mean it is an impervious surface, however. Rep. Lawrence also noted annual meeting requirements of the deal and asked if that meeting will be open to the public. Norbeck replied the "vast majority" of meetings are open to the public, but speculated this would more likely be an internal meeting. Sec. Dunn added that the department could take public comments to get input. Rep. Lawrence pointed out the deed restrictions will exist in perpetuity and he wondered how that would apply if the department ever took possession of the property in the future. The question was not answered due to time constraints.

Rep. Gabler spoke about discussions regarding payment in lieu of taxes (PILOTs) to school districts and recalled an implementation about two years ago in the Fiscal Code which changed the price per acre on state forestland on PILOTs. He wondered if it is truly based on local tax rates or per the Fiscal Code. Sec. Dunn offered to follow up with specific details regarding parklands and forestlands, but recalled additional funding that was added during the Rendell era from gaming funds. She drew a distinction between easements and state-owned lands. Rep. Gabler then spoke about backlogs of projects and easements and asked for an outline of the DCNR analysis of impacts on local tax bases when considering acquiring new lands. Sec. Dunn agreed that is a good point and noted that in some regions the local governments aren't asking for more park or forest land, but in other areas like the southeast "there's tremendous appetite" for new public lands. Rep. Gabler agreed with her regional analysis and pointed out some jurisdictions in his area are already half or more public lands and wondered if that is considered in acquisitions. Sec. Dunn replied "we listen closely to the county commissions."

Rep. Culver commented on an "eyesore from Route 11" is the old marina building in Shikalimy State Park and said there have been many criticism for allowing it to remain. She asked about the total amount of the backlog for the system. Sec.



Dunn reiterated the total backlog is \$1 billion and agreed that is one of the projects in the queue and she'd love to see it returned to use. She also noted the replacement of bags at that dam, but said a fish ladder is still needed there. Rep. Culver wondered how the department prioritizes projects. Sec. Dunn explained each region has a list of projects and often an event like a flood will bump a project back while that immediate issue is addressed instead. She said the department has to target health and safety issues first and public-facing improvements that the public is coming to expect, like improved restrooms. She also noted that the department is part of the transportation network in rural areas with 3,700 miles of roads and gets a lot of pushback when they are damaged. Rep. Culver requested a breakdown of the backlog list. Sec. Dunn agreed to do so.

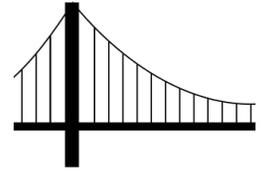
Rep. James followed up on the capital project backlog and asked how the department "arrives at a comfortable spot and justify using taxpayer dollars...in buying additional lands with additional problems and additional needs." Sec. Dunn replied land conservation is a part of the department's mission and said the funds used are specifically for the purpose of replenishing natural lands or Environmental Stewardship Fund dollars from the tipping fee. Rep. James responded, "It seems to me we are using taxpayer dollars to actually compete in the open market with private enterprise...when you buy those pieces of land." He remarked on the worthy nature of conservation easements, too, but suggested imposing easements would devalue the land for future generations and thus also uses taxpayer dollars to defeat private enterprise. Lastly, Rep. James wondered "how much is enough" for government-owned acreage and reiterated his concern of government competing with private enterprise. Sec. Dunn disagreed on that point, noting that improvements on state parklands are done by local businesses and draw in tourists and further benefit businesses. She pointed out this does not mark a change in land use and often keeps it at a high value use. She did not see a conflict. Rep. James disagreed.

Rep. Struzzi returned to the issue of special funds and the shifting of those dollars, opining "this really is the opposite of transparency of government and creates a mistrust among Pennsylvanians of government." He was further concerned on behalf of the people in his district who rely on this funding for key infrastructure projects and there isn't outreach to them to explain why this is happening. Sec. Dunn appreciated the concern and committed to delivering these programs at the historic level they have been delivered at. She said there is no intent to hide anything and indicated this is how the budget process plays out. She opined the natural assets are a reason people choose to be in Pennsylvania and was committed to continuing to deliver on those assets.

Rep. Struzzi also discussed the assets of the state parks and opportunities to generate more funds from the system. He wondered what efforts the department puts into marketing. Sec. Dunn replied DCNR leans on the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for marketing and also exploits social media for marketing, which is a current focus on winter sports and snow concessionaires. She said "they do make money" and indicated the department receives about \$25 million from that. She acknowledged and welcomed opportunities to expand those models.

Rep. Vitali, minority chairman of the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, praised Sec. Dunn and her staff and then asked about the increase of \$20 million from the Oil and Gas Lease Fund for DCNR operating expenses. He called this diversion of funds "very problematic" and indicated his understanding is that the courts have held that the use of oil and gas monies for non-conservation purposes is violative of the equal rights amendment of the Constitution. He noted additional litigation expected to be filed tomorrow regarding the unconstitutional use of the Oil and Gas Lease Fund for non-conservation purposes. Sec. Dunn acknowledged the case of last year and explained it spoke to oil and gas royalties and established natural resources as public trust and identified "all oath holders in Pennsylvania as carrying out that trust." She argued it highlights the importance of DCNR's role in managing public lands and the rights of all citizens under the constitution. She said the courts will figure out the "bonus and rents side" of the issue, which is currently in Commonwealth Courts. She concluded it is a legal question and pointed to Restore Pennsylvania as a way to meeting that ongoing need.

Rep. Lawrence reiterated his support for efforts to preserve land, but said he is concerned with the Lyme Timber loan and how the public access portion of that deal will be executive, calling it "pretty limited" and raising concern with Lyme's veto authority and the perpetual nature of the agreement. He reiterated his question of what happens if DCNR ever takes ownership of the property. Sec. Dunn disagreed on the access concerns, opining the department is getting the expected access. The purpose of the working forest easement is a working model, she said. Rep. Lawrence reiterated his question about whether Lyme would retain veto power. Norbeck responded, "There would be no reason for DCNR to purchase that



land” because the easement already accomplishes the department goals at lower cost and keeping the land on tax rolls. Sec. Dunn agreed this removes any reason for DCNR to own the land and stated it is a model the department is trying to establish. She was happy to meet with Rep. Lawrence to discuss the issue in further detail.

### **Bullet.in.Points**

#### **DEP: INTERSTATE POLLUTION TRANSPORT REDUCTION; PROPOSED 2019 OZONE SEASON NITROGEN OXIDE EMISSION LIMITS FOR NONELECTRIC GENERATING UNITS**

The Department of Environmental Protection provided notice of an opportunity for public comment on the proposed Nonelectric Generating Unit (non-EGU) 2019 Ozone Season Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) emission limitations. More information on emission limitations is available on the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

The department indicated comments must be received by no later than March 4, 2019. Comments may be submitted online [here](#), or by email: [ecomment@pa.gov](mailto:ecomment@pa.gov). Written comments may be mailed to policy office, Department of Environmental Protection, Rachel Carson State Office Building, PO Box 2063, Harrisburg, PA 17105. Use “Proposed Non-EGU 2019 Ozone Season NOx emission limits” as the subject line. Questions regarding this notice may be directed to Randy Bordner: (717) 772-3921 or [ranbordner@pa.gov](mailto:ranbordner@pa.gov).

#### **PENNDOT: STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING**

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation indicated the State Transportation Commission scheduled a meeting for February 21, 2019, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Commonwealth Keystone Building, Harrisburg. For more information contact the commission (717) 787-2913, or [RA-PennDOTSTC@pa.gov](mailto:RA-PennDOTSTC@pa.gov).

### **Cosponsor Memos**

<a href="#">HCO1150</a>	<a href="#">Kinsey, Stephen(D)</a>	Transfers the authority from the Attorney General to the Auditor General to audit the books, accounts, records, and performances of any county and municipal authority.
<a href="#">HCO1185</a>	<a href="#">Schweyer, Peter(D)</a>	Protects transportation employees, passengers and the public by ensuring that aggravated assault of a transportation company employee carries a penalty of a felony of the first or second degree.
<a href="#">HCO1197</a>	<a href="#">Dush, Cris(R)</a>	Designates a portion of PA Route 899 over the Clarion River connecting Barnett Township, Jefferson County and Barnett Township, Forest County, as the PFC Patrick T. Cassatt Memorial Bridge.



## Bill Actions

HB 417	Donatucci, Maria(D)	(PN 406) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) adding language providing that upon the removal of a legally parked vehicle under section (c) (2) bearing a registration plate, current certificate of inspection or VIN plate, the police officer or the police officer's designee shall affix a sticker to the vehicle indicating the date, time and purpose of removal, the new location and the entity responsible for the removal. Effective in 60 days. <b>Bill History:</b> 02-06-19 H Filed 02-11-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation
HB 418	Donatucci, Maria(D)	(PN 407) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in certificate of title and security interests, prohibiting the transfer of ownership of a vehicle with a suspended registration or title. Effective in 60 days. <b>Bill History:</b> 02-06-19 H Filed 02-11-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation
HB 447	Miller, Brett(R)	(PN 432) Amends the State Highway Law, in construction, improvement, maintenance and repair of state highways, by requiring the department to plant vegetation that is native to Pennsylvania and that will thrive in that plant hardiness zone and under the environmental conditions of the highway right-of-way. If it is not feasible to plant native vegetation, the department may authorize the use of nonnative vegetation, provided that the nonnative vegetation is not a federally-listed invasive plant or a noxious weed or controlled plant. Effective immediately. <b>Bill History:</b> 02-06-19 H Filed 02-11-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation
HB 451	Cruz, Angel(D)	(PN 436) Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses), in other offenses, establishing a summary offense for using a wireless communications device use while dispensing liquid fuels. The legislation provides for public notice, duties of the state fire commissioner, and definitions. Effective in 60 days. <b>Bill History:</b> 02-07-19 H Filed 02-11-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Judiciary



HB 452 Cruz, Angel(D) (PN 437) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) prohibiting the operation of a vehicle while holding or attending to an animal on the driver's lap, or allowing an animal to be in the driver's immediate area, which interferes with the driver's control over the driving mechanism of the vehicle. Effective in 60 days.

**Bill History:** 02-07-19 H Filed  
02-11-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

HB 454 Cruz, Angel(D) (PN 439) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in rules of the road in general, providing for removal of vehicles in a city of the first class (Philadelphia) by requiring a towing and storage agent to take digital photographs clearly demonstrating the license plate, violation, and posted sign before removing the vehicle. Effective in 60 days.

**Bill History:** 02-07-19 H Filed  
02-11-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

HB 458 Cruz, Angel(D) (PN 443) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) adding language requiring every school bus to have a video monitoring system by July 1, 2021. The system shall include an internal camera positioned so that every seat is within the camera's field of vision and either an internal camera positioned outward so the road ahead is within the camera's field of vision or an external camera. Also requires the Department of Transportation to adopt regulations implementing this requirement. Effective immediately.

**Bill History:** 02-07-19 H Filed  
02-11-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

HB 461 Cruz, Angel(D) (PN 446) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) adding a new section requiring every trailer with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 10,000 pounds and every truck tractor with the a gross weight rating of more than 26,000 pounds to be equipped with side underride protection systems. Effective in 60 days.

**Bill History:** 02-07-19 H Filed  
02-11-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation



HB 463 Cruz, Angel(D) (PN 448) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in powers of department and local authorities, authorizing the department to establish and administer a pilot program to place speed humps, speed tables, speed cushions or speed pillows within a school zone. A minimum of one school zone within a school district located in each class of county shall be selected. The department shall submit a report to the legislature by December 31, 2020, regarding the program. Effective in 60 days.

**Bill History:** 02-07-19 H Filed  
02-11-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

HB 464 Cruz, Angel(D) (PN 449) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) adding language providing for the suspension of an individual's vehicle registration for failing to respond to a citation; failing to pay any fine, costs or restitution or defaulting in the payment of any fine, costs or restitution imposed by an issuing authority or court within Pennsylvania or any jurisdiction with whom the Department of Transportation has an enforcement agreement. Effective in 180 days.

**Bill History:** 02-07-19 H Filed  
02-11-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

HB 489 Boback, Karen(R) (PN 477) Amends Title 23 (Domestic Relations), in protection from abuse, providing for waiver of fees for corrected or duplicate state documents from the Department of Transportation and Department of Health. The departments shall adopt a statement of policy to that end and make the statement available on their websites. Effective in 60 days.

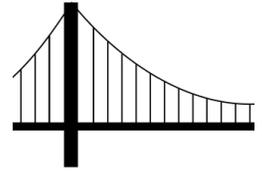
**Bill History:** 02-08-19 H Filed  
02-12-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Judiciary

HB 496 Davis, Tina(D) (PN 484) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) adding language to allow motorists to carry either a digital or paper copy of their vehicle registration card. Provides if a person displays an electronic registration card using an electronic device, the police officer shall only view the electronic registration card and may not manipulate the electronic device to view any other information on the electronic device. Effective in 60 days.

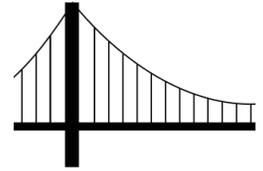
**Bill History:** 02-08-19 H Filed  
02-12-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

HB 523 Day, Gary(R) Amends the General Road Law, further providing for repair of private roads.

**Bill History:** 02-13-19 H Filed



HB 529	Jozwiak, Barry(R)	Amends Title 51 (Military Affairs) and 74 (Transportation), in Department of Military Affairs, providing for Civil Air Patrol; and, in authority of Dept. of Transportation, further providing for authority of department. <b>Bill History:</b> 02-13-19 H Filed
HB 539	Bizzarro, Ryan(D)	Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in licensing of drivers, further providing for Medical Advisory Board. <b>Bill History:</b> 02-14-19 H Filed
HR 79	Cruz, Angel(D)	(PN 397) Resolution urging the City of Philadelphia to launch a public education campaign on the prohibitions and safety hazards associated with pedestrians soliciting a ride, employment, business or contributions along roadways, and urging the Philadelphia Police Department to more strictly enforce State and local laws. <b>Bill History:</b> 02-07-19 H Filed 02-11-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Urban Affairs
HR 80	Cruz, Angel(D)	(PN 398) Resolution urging the City of Philadelphia to establish a year-round program providing for the safe removal and adequate disposal of illegally discarded waste tires. <b>Bill History:</b> 02-07-19 H Filed 02-11-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Urban Affairs
SB 128	Regan, Mike(R)	(PN 91) Amends Titles 51 (Military Affairs) and 74 (Transportation) establishing the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs as liaison for the Civil Air Patrol and supervise their expenditures of state funding as well as the maintenance and use of commonwealth facilities used. Effective in 60 days. <b>Bill History:</b> 01-29-19 S First consideration 02-05-19 S Set on the Senate Calendar 02-05-19 Second consideration 1:45pm 02-05-19 S Rereferred to Senate Appropriations 02-11-19 S Discussed during joint informational meeting, Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Prepared. -- Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Prepared.



SB 288

Yaw, Gene(R)

(PN 250) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in miscellaneous provisions relating to operation of vehicles, providing for protection of children from second-hand smoke in vehicles; and imposing a penalty. The bill establishes that no individual may smoke in a vehicle that is transporting a child under 12 years of age. An individual who violates this commits a summary offense and shall be sentenced to pay a fine of \$100. An individual who commits a second or subsequent offense shall be sentenced to pay a fine of \$250. Effective in 60 days.

**Bill History:** 02-14-19 S Filed  
02-14-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Transportation

### Upcoming Events

#### **State Board of Vehicle Manufacturers, Dealers and Salespersons**

February 19, 2019 - 9:30 a.m., 2601 North Third Street, Harrisburg  
Board Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-1697

#### **PA Turnpike Commission**

February 19, 2019 - 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 Transportation**

February 19, 2019 - 12:15 p.m., Room B31, Main Capitol

Informational meeting with Secretary Leslie Richards from PennDOT immediately following a voting meeting to consider: [HB 65](#) Sankey, Thomas Act re Private Steve L. Klosz Memorial Bridge [HB 66](#) Sankey, Thomas Act re Sgt. Scott O. Henry Memorial Bridge [HB 224](#) Pickett, Tina Act re W.H. "Doc" Shoemaker, Jr., Mem. Highway [HB 277](#) Owlett, Clint Act re Troy Area Veterans Memorial Bridge [HB 374](#) Everett, Garth Amends Titles 27 & 75 re Keystone Tree Fund [HB 384](#) Kail, Joshua (F) Amends Title 75 re classes of licenses (Note: Informational meeting added to agenda)

#### **Senate Appropriations**

February 19, 2019 - 1:00 p.m., Hearing Room 1, North Office Building  
Budget Hearing - Independent Fiscal Office

#### **Senate Appropriations**

February 19, 2019 - 3:00 p.m., Hearing Room 1, North Office Building  
Budget Hearing - Public Utility Commission

#### **Delaware River Port Authority/PATCO**

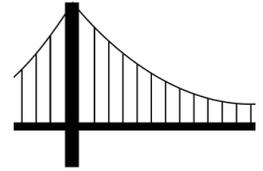
February 20, 2019 - 9:00 a.m., One Port Center, 11th Floor, 2 Riverside Drive, Camden, NJ  
Board Meeting. For additional information: (856) 968-2253

#### **PA State Transportation Commission**

February 21, 2019 - 9:00 a.m., Keystone Building, Conference Room 8N1, 400 North Street, Harrisburg  
Commission Meeting. For additional information: (717) 787-2913

#### **Independent Regulatory Review Commission**

February 21, 2019 - 10:00 a.m., 14th Floor Conference Room, 333 Market Street, Harrisburg  
Public hearing on the availability of wheelchair accessible vehicle service in this Commonwealth

**Senate Appropriations**

February 25, 2019 - 3:00 p.m., Hearing Room 1, North Office Building  
Budget Hearing - Dept. of Transportation

**House Appropriations**

February 26, 2019 - 1:00 p.m., Room 140, Main Capitol  
Budget Hearing - Department of Transportation

**House Democratic Policy Committee**

February 27, 2019 - 2:00 p.m., Dunmore Community Center, 1414 Monroe Avenue, Dunmore  
Public hearing with Rep. Kyle Mullins on transportation

**PA Public Utility Commission**

February 28, 2019 - 10:00 a.m., Commonwealth Keystone Building, Hearing Room 1, 400 North St., Harrisburg  
Public Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-1740

**Delaware River Port Authority/PATCO**

March 5, 2019 - 9:00 a.m., 2 Riverside Drive, Camden NJ  
Operations & Maintenance Committee Meeting. For additional information: (856) 968-2253

March 5, 2019 - 10:30 a.m., 2 Riverside Drive, Camden NJ  
Labor Committee Meeting. For additional information: (856) 968-2253

**PA Turnpike Commission**

March 5, 2019 - 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

**Delaware River Port Authority/PATCO**

March 6, 2019 - 9:00 a.m., 2 Riverside Drive, Camden NJ  
Finance Committee Meeting. For additional information: (856) 968-2253

March 6, 2019 - 10:30 a.m., 2 Riverside Drive, Camden NJ  
Audit Committee Meeting. For additional information: (856) 968-2253

**House Appropriations**

March 6, 2019 - 10:00 a.m., Room 140, Main Capitol  
Budget Hearing - Budget Secretary - Office of the Governor/Executive Offices

**Senate Appropriations**

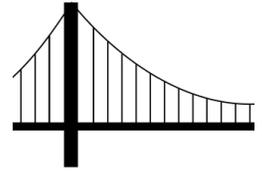
March 7, 2019 - 3:00 p.m., Hearing Room 1, North Office Building  
Budget Hearing - Budget Secretary/Governor's Executive Office (if necessary)

**Joint Legislative Conservation Committee**

March 19, 2019 - 10:00 a.m., Room 108, Irvis Office Building  
Informational meeting on bike tourism initiatives along PA Route 6

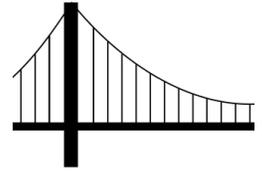
**Press Conference**

February 26, 2019 11:00 a.m. Main Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg  
PPTA Legislative Day Press Conference (unconfirmed)

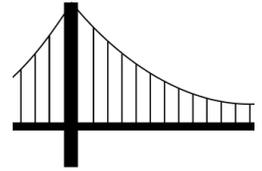


## In the News

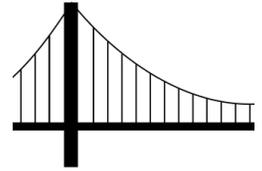
- 02-14-2019 **[Snyder: State should delay transportation changes that could adversely affect...](#)**  
(Press Release)
- 02-14-2019 **[State Police Enforces Travel Restrictions During February Storm](#)**  
(Press Release)
- 02-14-2019 **[PennDOT, State Police Highlight Traffic Law Updates, Importance to Highway...](#)**  
(Press Release)
- 02-14-2019 **[Delmont council holds off on one-way designation for alley](#)**  
Delmont Council this week tabled until March a decision on whether to designate a small alley as one-way. Shaun Blackham of Delmont, who lives across Spring Alley from Trinity United Church of Christ, said Tuesday he doesn't understand why it needs to be designated as one-way.... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-14-2019 **[National Safety Council: Traffic deaths in U.S. above 40,000 for third year in a row](#)**  
Traffic deaths in the U.S. were down slightly in 2018 for the second year in a row, but they still exceeded a benchmark the National Safety Council considers too high. Concerning the benchmark, the council reported Wednesday that fatalities were 40,000 or above for the third year in a row, the first time that has... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-14-2019 **[Want a flight from Allentown airport to your favorite destination? Here's who decides where you can go](#)**  
For years, officials with the Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority have lobbied airlines to add destinations and connections to Lehigh Valley International Airport. Armed with market data, customer surveys and feedback from local businesses, they've acted as cheerleaders for the... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 02-14-2019 **[After concerns raised, Allentown council delays vote on proposed parking meter changes around PPL Center](#)**  
Allentown City Council tabled a bill Wednesday that would allow event rates to be charged at parking meters around PPL Center after expressing concerns about the rates, the effect on residents and the prospect of giving too much power to the Parking Authority.... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 02-14-2019 **[Tulpehocken supervisors OK intergovernmental agreement with Upper Tulpehocken](#)**  
The Tulpehocken Township supervisors on Wednesday approved an intergovernmental agreement for resource sharing with Upper Tulpehocken Township. The deal allows the townships to share equipment and manpower on future projects. No work that would involve the pact is currently planned,... - [Reading Eagle](#)



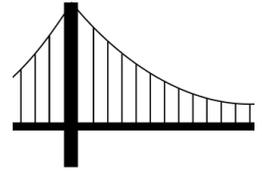
- 02-14-2019 **Wyomissing says no to splitting crossing-guard cost with school district**  
Wyomissing Borough Council on Tuesday denied a Wyomissing School District request to split the cost of employing a crossing guard along Woodland Avenue by the Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center. In a letter that the borough fire and police committee reviewed last month,... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 02-14-2019 **Geigertown authority to work with PennDOT on storm-sewer pipe fix**  
The Geigertown Area Joint Authority on Wednesday directed Keith Showalter of Systems Design Engineering to make arrangements with PennDOT to replace a PennDOT storm-sewer pipe crossing Route 82 near Mill Road at no additional cost to the authority. Officials said the pipe has recently appeared to be sinking and may... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 02-14-2019 **Pennsylvania commits funding \$670 million transportation project for State College connection**  
A \$670 million project to improve the connection on U.S. Route 322 between the top of the Seven Mountains and State College will become a reality, Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf announced at a press conference Wednesday. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation is committing discretionary... - [State College Centre Daily Times](#)
- 02-14-2019 **State Will Fund 'Missing Link' Highway Between Seven Mountains and State College**  
After being shelved for more than 15 years because funding was pulled, efforts are moving forward to connect the Seven Mountains area and State College with a four-lane highway. Joined by state Senate Majority Leader Jake Corman, R-Benner Township, and state Rep. Kerry Benninghoff, R-Bellefonte, Gov. Tom Wolf announced in... - [State College News](#)
- 02-14-2019 **Coming together**  
BOALSBURG—Discretionary funds from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation have been approved to continue completion of the “missing link,” connecting Seven Mountains to the greater State College area via U.S. Route 322. The announcement was made by Gov. Tom... - [Lewistown Sentinel](#)
- 02-14-2019 **Making Route 322 'Missing Link' a reality has been a long time coming**  
With the joint announcement Wednesday by Gov. Tom Wolf, state Sen. Jake Corman (R-Bellefonte), state Rep. Kerry Benninghoff (R-Bellefonte) and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation that the primary roadway between Mifflin County and the State College area will eventually be an... - [Lewistown Sentinel](#)
- 02-14-2019 **Workers react to NEMF closing**  
Shocking. Hard to hear. No words. The statements make up only a small sampling of local employees' reaction to New England Motor Freight's announcement Monday of Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing and plans to shut down its operations. Like many of her co-workers, Christina Dixon, a truck driver for two years... - [Lehighon Times News](#)



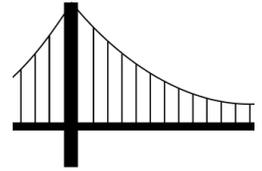
- 02-14-2019 **Open house will focus on Route 2016 Rhoades Creek culvert project**  
PennDOT will hold an open house to inform the public of a proposed Route 2016 (Rockdale Road) Rhoades Creek culvert replacement project in Black Township, Somerset County. The open house will be held from 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday at Black Township Municipal Building, 228 Rockdale Road, Rockwood.... - [Johnstown Tribune-Democrat](#)
- 02-14-2019 **PennDOT will offer free motorcycle safety clinics**  
Through October, PennDOT will offer several free Pennsylvania Motorcycle Safety Program (PAMSP) clinics focused on developing operator proficiency for prospective, experienced and new riders who have a motorcycle learner's permit or motorcycle license. Registration for the 2019 training season will open Friday.... - [Johnstown Tribune-Democrat](#)
- 02-14-2019 **County OKs two road project contractors**  
Two local road restoration projects will be underway this spring with the help of federal community block grant dollars. The Lawrence County commissioners on Tuesday voted to award a contract to North Beaver Contracting LLC of New Castle, the low bidder, for work on... - [New Castle News](#)
- 02-14-2019 **Pols: Slam brakes on Medicaid busing change**  
HARRISBURG — Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle want the state to block a move to replace county management of Medicaid-funded bus rides. The trade group representing the bus systems that now manage the service warn that the switch could mean increased costs and worse service for... - [Meadville Tribune](#)
- 02-14-2019 **Reconstruction resumes in March**  
NORTHUMBERLAND — Year three of the four-year \$14 million Duke Street reconstruction project in Northumberland Borough will resume, after a winter hiatus, in early March, weather permitting. In advance of that start date, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)
- 02-14-2019 **I-83/Mount Rose interchange makeover: Where project stands, updates**  
Construction at the Interstate 83/Mount Rose interchange continues with the goal of having the project in its final configuration by the end of the year. The project has been running far behind schedule. It was expected to be completed in November. The contractor, Cherry Hill Construction Inc, of Jessup, Maryland, is being... - [York Daily](#)
- 02-14-2019 **Chester, state talk infrastructure redevelopment**  
CHESTER — City officials welcomed state Department of Community and Economic Development Secretary Dennis Davin and department representatives to discuss the new Restore Pennsylvania infrastructure proposal and its potential impact on the city. The department's \$4.5 billion Restore Pennsylvania program, to be... - [Primos Delaware County Daily and Sunday Times](#)
- 02-14-2019 **Liz Cheney's claim that the 'Green New Deal' would eliminate air travel**  
"I would just say that it's going to be crucially important for us to recognize and understand when we outlaw plane travel, we outlaw gasoline, we outlaw cars, I think actually probably the entire U.S. military, because of the Green New Deal, that we are able to explain to our... - [Washington Post](#)



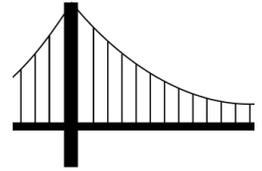
- 02-14-2019 **[The Daily 202: Green New Deal vote foreshadows GOP efforts to make sure 2020 is not just a referendum on Trump](#)**  
THE BIG IDEA: President Trump will struggle to get reelected if the 2020 campaign is purely a referendum on his own performance, but elections typically become choices between two flawed candidates and their visions. Republicans are banking on this, and Trump is doing everything possible... - [Washington Post](#)
- 02-14-2019 **[Arrested Ohio judge in body-cam video: 'I am so intoxicated'](#)**  
RAVENNA — Portage County Common Pleas Judge Becky Doherty told an officer several times that she was drunk while being arrested for drunken driving on Sunday, according to a body-cam video taken by the Brimfield Police Department. “I am absolutely out of my mind. I am so intoxicated,” she tells an... - [Columbus Dispatch](#)
- 02-14-2019 **[Race disparities in LAPD traffic stops demand a full investigation](#)**  
A recent Los Angeles Times article analyzing racial disparities in vehicle stops by the Los Angeles Police Department’s Metropolitan division sparked two very different reactions from local stakeholders. Leaders from affected neighborhoods reacted with alarm to evidence that... - [Los Angeles Times](#)
- 02-14-2019 **[Newsom is right to scale back the bullet train, and it's good politics too](#)**  
If anyone thought that Gov. Gavin Newsom’s administration would merely be an extension of fellow Democrat Jerry Brown’s, that notion has been completely obliterated. “Let’s level about the high-speed rail,” Newsom told a joint session of the Legislature. “I have nothing but respect for Gov.... - [Los Angeles Times](#)
- 02-14-2019 **[DEP unveils plan to increase electric vehicle use in Pennsylvania](#)**  
HARRISBURG >> Pennsylvania could gain almost \$2.8 billion in benefits from lower greenhouse gas emissions, help reduce respiratory disease, increase consumer savings, and create jobs if just three in 10 vehicles were electric, according to a plan released by the Department of Environmental... - [Bucks Local News](#)
- 02-14-2019 **[PA Combating Human Trafficking](#)**  
Executives from the PA Departments of Transportation (PennDOT) and Human Services (DHS), PA State Police (PSP), and the Governor’s Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (APAA) were joined by advocates and a human trafficking survivor on Monday, Jan. 7, to discuss efforts to combat human... - [Wyalusing Rocket-Courier](#)
- 02-14-2019 **[Boback Reintroduces Good Samaritan Bill](#)**  
State Rep. Karen Boback has reintroduced legislation that would provide civil immunity for anyone whose actions result in damage done to a vehicle during forcible entry in order to rescue a child. HBX - [Wyalusing Rocket-Courier](#)
- 02-14-2019 **[Unhealthy competition: The city needs to bring order to towing industry](#)**  
Unhealthy competition: The city needs to bring order to towing industry Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto has developed a potential solution to the unruly behavior of tow truck drivers Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto has developed a potential solution to a perennially thorny problem — the unruly behavior of tow truck drivers... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)



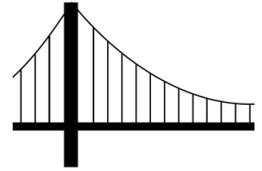
- 02-14-2019 **140K pre-verify for REAL ID, PennDOT says**  
ID, PennDOT announced Tuesday. Pre-verification will allow state residents to apply for REAL ID online once they are available in March, and get their REAL ID driver's license or photo identification card in the mail. A REAL ID is optional for state residents, but it, a U.S. Passport or a... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-13-2019 **DEP Unveils Plan to Increase Electric Vehicle Use in Pennsylvania**  
(Press Release)
- 02-13-2019 **AG DePasquale Outlines Audit Successes, Office Efficiencies Before House...**  
(Press Release)
- 02-13-2019 **PennDOT Announces Motorcycle Training Available Beginning February 15**  
(Press Release)
- 02-13-2019 **Governor Wolf, Sen. Corman Announce Action on Long-Awaited Transportation...**  
(Press Release)
- 02-13-2019 **Use meter parking around PPL Center on event nights? Prepare to pay more**  
Big changes are coming for drivers looking to park around the PPL Center arena. This week, the Allentown Parking Authority will introduce a plan to begin charging event rates, equal to those at city garages, at all parking meters that surround the Allentown event space.... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 02-13-2019 **Bieber customers with unused tickets now have options for refunds**  
Those who purchased bus tickets from Bieber Transportation Group before the company went out of business Friday now have options for unused tickets. Bieber posted a message on its website Tuesday announcing that customers who purchased tickets or put deposits down for chartered buses and want... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 02-13-2019 **Exeter Township supervisors frustrated by PennDOT project on Perkiomen Avenue**  
Property and business owners affected by the construction on Perkiomen Avenue in Exeter Township are not the only ones frustrated by the project. Township supervisors expressed their concerns and frustrations at their meeting Monday. When it comes to communicating with the township and property owners,... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 02-13-2019 **EMTA to host public meetings on transit plan**  
The Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority will host two public meetings on Feb. 20 regarding the development of a federally-required long-range plan. Both meetings will take place at the Intermodal Transportation Center's second-floor conference room, 208 E. Bayfront Parkway.... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 02-13-2019 **New Oakmont Bakery's opening week successful for the shop, hectic for borough and school district officials**  
The new Oakmont Bakery at Third Street and Hulton Road in Oakmont has been open only a week and the traffic nightmares have begun. "The whole area's a disaster, but it will get worked out," interim borough Manager Harry Dilmore said Tuesday. "We knew there was... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)



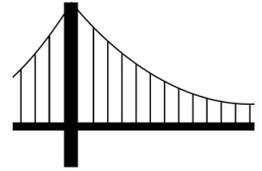
- 02-13-2019 **State police fee overdue**  
Mostly conservative Republican lawmakers from rural areas regularly promote the value of self-sufficiency and self-reliance. But regarding police protection, those same lawmakers vigorously defend their constituents' preference to be free-riders. Every governor of both parties since Tom Ridge has proposed assessing a... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 02-13-2019 **More truck bans and enforcement during storms freezes key industry**  
A cigarette dangled from Michel Laforge's lips while he watched Mia, his canine road mate, prance over the slushy parking lot Tuesday afternoon. The truck driver from Quebec, on his way to Hickory, North Carolina, had been idling at the Petro truck stop in Dupont since 6 a.m. when the second... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 02-13-2019 **Dominion Energy reducing methane emissions from natural gas infrastructure**  
RICHMOND, Va.— Dominion Energy has announced an historic, industry-leading initiative to reduce methane emissions from its natural gas infrastructure by 50 percent over the next decade, based on 2010 levels. The initiative will prevent more than 430,000 metric tons of methane from... - [Lock Haven Express](#)
- 02-13-2019 **PennDOT asked to curb truck traffic on S. Washington Street**  
Greencastle Borough Council is lending its voice to concerns about tractor-trailer traffic on South Washington Street outlined in a letter from Mayor Ben Thomas Jr. to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. Thomas shared his letter in the mayor's report at last week's... - [Greencastle Echo-Pilot](#)
- 02-13-2019 **PennDOT reminds customers of REAL ID requirements**  
HARRISBURG — The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) is reminding customers that they can join more than 140,000 Pennsylvanians who have pre-verified for REAL ID online and at driver license centers statewide. Customers who bring in the required REAL ID documentation to any PennDOT... - [Bradford Era](#)
- 02-13-2019 **PennDOT gearing up REAL ID rollout soon**  
REAL IDs will be issued starting next month. PennDOT is looking to remind people across the state about the process that you may have to go through in order to obtain the compliant form of identification that you'll need to board a commercial flight or enter a... - [Warren Times Observer](#)
- 02-13-2019 **Warmer, Wetter Weather Has State, Local Leaders Concerned**  
PITTSBURGH (KDKA) – Last year was the wettest on record in Pittsburgh, and this year is already looking like it will follow the trend. So is this the new normal? In fact, we are still dealing with issues from 2018 when it comes to the amount of rain we saw and the landslides that rain caused. That is on top... - [KDKA](#)
- 02-13-2019 **New Study Says Pittsburgh Traffic Ranks Among Worst in Nation**  
PITTSBURGH (KDKA) – A new study says that Pittsburgh has some of the worst traffic in the country. The study found that Pittsburghers spend an average of more than five days a year sitting in traffic. Congestion costs Americans, according to new study from Inrix that found... - [KDKA](#)



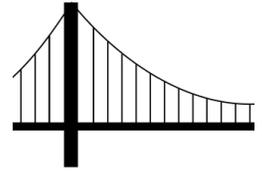
- 02-13-2019 **Why the United States will never have high-speed rail**  
California likes to think of itself as the state where the future happens, and in 2008, its voters decided the future was high-speed rail. In November of that year, they approved a \$9 billion bond issue to begin one of the most ambitious government infrastructure projects in U.S. history: a bullet... - [Washington Post](#)
- 02-13-2019 **'Shocking' cut to California's troubled high-speed rail project solves some problems and creates others**  
"It is shocking," said a senior executive at a major engineering firm in California who has worked on the bullet train project and asked not to be identified. "I didn't think he was that bold." Newsom said Wednesday that while the state has the capacity to complete the... - [Los Angeles Times](#)
- 02-13-2019 **Abandoning high-speed rail would be a mistake for California, the country and the planet**  
Gov. Gavin Newsom distressed some people and delighted others Tuesday when he announced that he was putting on hold California's ambitious plans to build a bullet train from San Francisco to Los Angeles, and that he would instead focus on finishing high-speed rail service where construction... - [Los Angeles Times](#)
- 02-13-2019 **CSX: No injuries, leaks or spills in locomotive fire**  
A CSX locomotive caught fire just after 8 p.m. Tuesday in Ohio. According to the company's communications office, the fire occurred near Main Street and was extinguished by the Fayette County Fire Department within an hour. CSX said there were no injuries, leaks or spills, and normal train traffic... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-13-2019 **Landslide closes Verona Road, knocks out power in Penn Hills**  
Verona Road in Penn Hills is closed due to a landslide that swept a hillside into a nearby creek, according to the Rosedale Volunteer Fire Department. The slide happened around 8 a.m. Wednesday. The slide pushed trees onto power lines, knocking out power in the region,... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-13-2019 **Ford recalls 1.5M pickups that can downshift without warning**  
DETROIT — Ford is recalling nearly 1.5 million pickup trucks in North America because the transmissions can suddenly downshift into first gear. The recall covers F-150 trucks from the 2011 through 2013 model years with six-speed automatic transmissions. The company says a glitch in sending a signal from the transmission speed... - [AP](#)
- 02-13-2019 **Roads slick after dry, powdery snow hits Pittsburgh region, more snow expected**  
The Pittsburgh region will continue to see snow showers through Wednesday evening after early morning snow caused slippery roads and traffic issues. John Darnley, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Moon, said the snow was always in the forecast, but because it's a dry snow,... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)



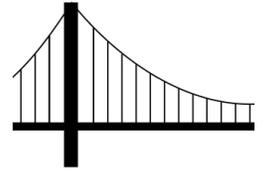
- 02-13-2019 **Red flag for U.S. economy: A record-high 7 million Americans are 3 months behind on car payments**  
A record 7 million Americans are 90 days or more behind on their auto loan payments, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York reported Tuesday, even more than during the wake of the financial crisis era. Economists warn this is a red flag. Despite the strong economy and low... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 02-13-2019 **New England Motor Freight to wind down operations, close Carbon County terminal that employs 200**  
New England Motor Freight Inc. filed for bankruptcy and plans to wind down its operations, including a terminal it operated for more than 30 years in Carbon County that employs around 200 people. The Elizabeth, N.J., company made the announcement Monday, reasoning that a... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 02-13-2019 **Want a flight from Allentown airport to your favorite destination? Here's who decides where you can go**  
For years, officials with the Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority have lobbied airlines to add destinations and connections to Lehigh Valley International Airport. Armed with market data, customer surveys and feedback from local businesses, they've acted as cheerleaders for the... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 02-13-2019 **After ice breaks windshield on Route 22, another call to clear off vehicles**  
PennDOT can never issue too many reminders to drivers to clear the ice off their vehicles before traveling. Wednesday morning proved unusually difficult, as freezing rain overnight created a tough ice layer that coated the Lehigh Valley. Vehicles were iced over this morning, but that ice can easily be dislodged... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 02-12-2019 **Vehicle Restrictions Removed from Two More Roadways, Travelers Urged to...**  
(Press Release)
- 02-12-2019 **Some Vehicle Restrictions Lifted at 1:00 P.M. on Certain Roadways, Travelers...**  
(Press Release)
- 02-12-2019 **Pennsylvanians Reminded to Be Vigilant as Winter Storm Continues Path Across...**  
(Press Release)
- 02-12-2019 **Dominion Energy to Reduce Methane Emissions from Natural Gas Infrastructure...**  
(Press Release)
- 02-12-2019 **PennDOT Reminder: Customers Can Join 140,000 Who Pre-Verified for REAL ID**  
(Press Release)
- 02-12-2019 **Bike Pittsburgh survey: Bicyclists trust self-driving vehicles, lose confidence in human drivers**  
Citing the predictability of self-driving vehicles, bicyclists say they are increasingly more comfortable around them than they are around human drivers, according to a survey released Monday by Bike Pittsburgh. The survey, a followup to one in 2017 by the bicycle advocacy group, shows... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)



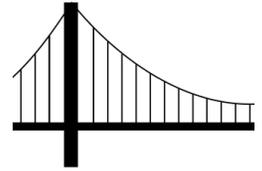
- 02-12-2019 **[Pittsburgh tow truck drivers doubtful about coming city procedures](#)**  
Monday morning's precipitation mix caused fender benders and crashes from the South Side to Squirrel Hill. Just after 7 a.m., emergency dispatchers could be heard over a police scanner radio discussing three cars that slid off Potomac Avenue in the city's Banksville... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-12-2019 **[Sources in 'Johnny Doc' case: PPA board chair Ashdale bribed councilman to squash agency audit](#)**  
When members of City Council pushed for an audit in 2016 to determine whether the Philadelphia Parking Authority was withholding money from city schools, PPA Board Chairman Joseph Ashdale was quick to voice his public opposition. But private conversations, caught on an FBI wiretap, suggest just how far... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 02-12-2019 **[PSU prepares students for changes](#)**  
Rail transportation companies nationwide have spent billions of dollars and are almost finished implementing advanced safety systems mandated by Congress to prevent train accidents. By 2020, positive train control will be ready across the nation. "Once they turn it on, there will be learning curves in next couple... - [Altoona Mirror](#)
- 02-12-2019 **[Demise of Bieber nets Berks new transportation options](#)**  
Jordan Antrim lives the high-pressure life of a male model in Europe. The 26-year-old Oley Valley graduate, Class of 2012, lives with his family in Bechtelsville when he is home in the states, but spends most of his time working, usually three months at a time, in Germany, Milan, Paris, New York... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 02-12-2019 **[Allegiant to offer flights from Lehigh Valley International Airport to Nashville](#)**  
Starting in May, Lehigh Valley International Airport will offer direct flights on Allegiant Airlines to and from Nashville, airport officials announced Tuesday. The seasonal route is the 13th non-stop destination for the airport and will operate twice weekly. To celebrate, the company is offering... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 02-12-2019 **[Harborcreek man named to trucking hall of fame](#)**  
Tim Palkovic, who got a job washing big trucks at Curtze on Saturdays for \$2 a truck in 1975, has been driving for the company for 41 years — without any record of an accident or a moving violation. Some people talk a good game. That doesn't describe Tim Palkovic.... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 02-12-2019 **[Editorial: Bieber's demise leaves hole in transportation system](#)**  
The Issue: Berks County's lone intercity bus carrier abruptly goes out of business. Our Opinion: It's great that other providers are stepping in, but the community needs more service. The demise of Bieber Transportation Group hardly qualifies as a surprise. It had been clear since last summer that the Kutztown-based bus company was... - [Reading Eagle](#)



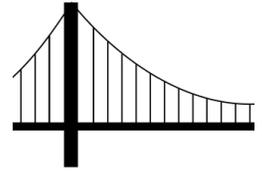
- 02-12-2019 **[Exeter Township supervisors frustrated by PennDOT project on Perkiomen Avenue](#)**  
Property and business owners affected by the construction on Perkiomen Avenue in Exeter Township are not the only ones frustrated by the project. Township supervisors expressed their concerns and frustrations at their meeting Monday. When it comes to communicating with the township and property owners,... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 02-12-2019 **[Mahoning supervisors say state ignoring flooding issue](#)**  
MAHONING TWP. — The \$45,506 Growing Greener grant Mahoning Township recently received from the state won't go toward fixing flooding problems along Blizzards Run near Bloom Road and Academy Avenue, township officials said on Monday. That has angered and frustrated the township supervisors, who said at their... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)
- 02-12-2019 **[Speed limit reduced to 45 mph on Interstates 80 and 180](#)**  
PennDOT has reduced speed limits on interstates in the PennDOT District 3 region, which includes Bradford, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga and Union counties. Speed limits have been lowered to 45 miles per hour on the following roads:... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)
- 02-12-2019 **[Meadville to hire parking enforcement staff soon](#)**  
A lawless era in the annals of Meadville parking enforcement could soon be consigned to the history books. The city has been without parking enforcement officers since mid-December, City Manager Andy Walker said Monday, but two job offers were made last week and one has already been accepted.... - [Meadville Tribune](#)
- 02-12-2019 **[PennDOT restricts travel on major roads as storm approaches](#)**  
OIL CITY — With ice storms in the forecast, PennDOT has announced travel restrictions effective today. While most of the restrictions affect the eastern portion of Pennsylvania, the state transportation department has restricted travel along nearly the entire length of Interstate 80 in the state, from Interstate 79 in Mercer... - [Sharon Herald](#)
- 02-12-2019 **[Aging infrastructure hampering Gay Street work](#)**  
WEST CHESTER—Aqua Pennsylvania's Gay Street water main replacement project remains underway in the center of town. As with many older towns, the infrastructure beneath the ground is as historic, although not as charming, as the buildings above ground. A variety of dated and tightly knitted utility infrastructure, including an... - [West Chester Daily Local News](#)
- 02-12-2019 **[NEMF filing for bankruptcy, plans liquidation](#)**  
New England Motor Freight, one of the top 25 largest employers in Carbon County according to labor statistics, announced plans Monday to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection and wind down its operations. "We have worked hard to explore options for New England Motor Freight,... - [Lehighon Times News](#)



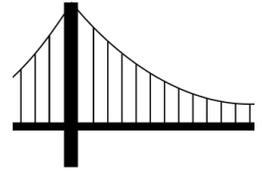
- 02-12-2019 **[PennDOT, turnpike commission banning commercial vehicles in phases ahead of storm](#)**  
PennDOT and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission are banning certain vehicles in phases into Tuesday as the state faces potential snow and forecasted sleet and/ or freezing rain. At midnight Monday into Tuesday, all commercial vehicles including buses will be banned from I-70 in Fulton County, from the Maryland state line to... - [Easton Express-Times](#)
- 02-12-2019 **[Drivers' centers to close for holiday](#)**  
The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has announced that all driver license and photo centers, including its full-service center in the Indiana Mall, will be closed Saturday through Monday in observance of Presidents Day. Customers may still obtain a variety of driver and vehicle products and... - [Indiana Gazette](#)
- 02-12-2019 **[Oregon Village developer proposes 4 new traffic lights, \\$6.2 million in road improvements](#)**  
The proposed 75-acre Oregon Village development would include \$6.2 million in highway improvements, including added turn lanes, a new segment of Oregon Road and four new traffic signals, a traffic expert testified Monday night. John Schick, testifying for the developer, said the developer-funded... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 02-12-2019 **[Construction begins on half-mile-long Wayne Junction Viaduct](#)**  
PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Construction crews are about to begin a major project on a span along the Roosevelt Expressway. At 59 years of age, the old, decaying Wayne Junction Viaduct is a structure that "is at the end of its service life." "It really needs to be rehabilitated," said PennDOT spokesman Brad Rudolph.... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)
- 02-12-2019 **[Gov. Phil Murphy declares state of emergency ahead of winter storm](#)**  
PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Two winter storms in less than 24 hours have forced road crews to work round-the-clock. It also prompted Gov. Phil Murphy on Monday to declare a state of emergency across all of New Jersey, effective at midnight through Tuesday.... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)
- 02-12-2019 **[Steelers' Antonio Brown a no-show at reckless driving hearing](#)**  
Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Antonio Brown failed to show up in court Tuesday for a summary trial related to a reckless driving charge, court records show. His no-show led to a disposition of guilty for the reckless driving charge, which carries a fine of \$200.... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-12-2019 **[Antonio Brown found guilty after skipping court date for speeding ticket](#)**  
Now erratic Steelers receiver Antonio Brown has skipped a court date. Mr. Brown, cited in November for driving his sports car over 100 mph in Ross, did not show up Tuesday morning for his summary trial before District Judge Richard Opiela, who found the football player guilty in his absence.... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)



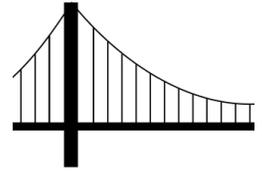
- 02-12-2019 **[Allegiant to launch nonstop flights from Pittsburgh to Knoxville](#)**  
Allegiant Air is launching seasonal nonstop service to Knoxville, Tenn., from Pittsburgh International Airport. The twice-weekly flights to McGhee Tyson Airport will begin May 17, the airline announced Tuesday. Knoxville will be Allegiant's sixth destination from Pittsburgh... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-12-2019 **[PennDOT, Pa.Turnpike, lift many travel restrictions, 45-mph speed limit remains in place](#)**  
While the 45-mph speed limit remains in effect for the region's highways, both PennDOT and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission are lifting some vehicle restrictions that came with today's winter storm. As of 1:00 PM, the agencies removed the ban on only empty, straight... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 02-12-2019 **[Allegiant to offer flights from Lehigh Valley International Airport to Nashville](#)**  
Starting in May, Lehigh Valley International Airport will offer direct flights on Allegiant Airlines to and from Nashville, airport officials announced Tuesday. The seasonal route is the 13th nonstop destination for the airport and will operate twice weekly. To celebrate, the company is offering introductory... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 02-12-2019 **[Use meter parking around PPL Center on event nights? Prepare to pay more](#)**  
Big changes are coming for drivers looking to park around the PPL Center arena. This week, the Allentown Parking Authority will introduce a plan to begin charging event rates, equal to those at city garages, at all parking meters that surround the Allentown event space.... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 02-12-2019 **[Allegiant Air announces flights between Pittsburgh and Tennessee](#)**  
Allegiant Air is preparing to debut new direct flight between Pittsburgh International Airport and McGhee Tyson Airport in Knoxville, Tennessee, and offering tickets for as low as \$49 each way. The new seasonal route will start May 17. Flights will run twice weekly, with full details about scheduling and fares... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-12-2019 **[Parkway East, West among the most congested roads in U.S., study finds](#)**  
This isn't news to anyone who regularly travels I-376 around Pittsburgh, but the highway ranked as one of the most congested roads in the country, according to a recent study. The Parkway East and West between I-79 and the Turnpike was the fifth most congested road in the United States last year, the study by INRIX, Inc.... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-11-2019 **[PA Prepared as Winter Storm Set to Impact State Through Wednesday](#)**  
(Press Release)
- 02-11-2019 **[PennDOT: Vehicle Restrictions to be Imposed on Certain Roadways, Travelers...](#)**  
(Press Release)
- 02-11-2019 **[PennDOT Driver License, Photo Centers Closed for Presidents Day Holiday](#)**  
(Press Release)



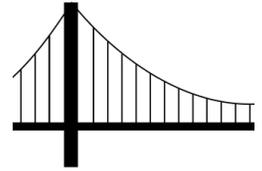
- 02-11-2019 **Harrisburg roundabout, Camp Hill speed reduction included in safety upgrade plan**  
Speed reductions, lane closures and the construction of at least one roundabout were among the numerous suggestions to come out of a study that aims to improve safety along a main corridor into Harrisburg from the west shore. That is according to Gene M. Chabak, senior project manager with Larson... - [Penn Live](#), [Patriot-News](#)
- 02-11-2019 **Port Authority looks at small changes to handle more riders**  
With major expansion out of the question due to land and money limitations, Port Authority is looking at what small changes it can make to provide more efficient service for an increasing ridership base. The authority, which showed an increase of 1.7 million bus riders last... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-11-2019 **Green programs stir dissent in Pa. and DC**  
From Harrisburg to Washington, Republican lawmakers have spent the past few days lashing out at sweeping Democratic proposals to regulate fossil fuels and fund state programs. But beyond the catchy names — “Green New Deal” and “Restore Pennsylvania” — the plans reveal the limits of environmental reform... - [Altoona Mirror](#)
- 02-11-2019 **Klein Transportation announces schedule and rates for service to New York City**  
Klein Transportation is poised to rollout service to New York City on Monday from Douglassville, Muhlenberg Township and Kutztown. The Douglassville-based, family-owned company, which announced the service late Saturday night, said it hopes to fill the void left after Bieber... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 02-11-2019 **WCU students abandoned by driver in western Chester County**  
WEST CHESTER — A number of female students at West Chester told police that a person they know acted suspiciously during an early-morning trip home from a party in the borough. According to a message posted on the university’s website, the school had received a report early Sunday, several female WCU students called a... - [West Chester Daily Local News](#)
- 02-11-2019 **Joining forces: ARM Group Inc. adds Ebensburg's CAMCO, AEC**  
EBENSBURG – From area coal mines to large metro transit and international cruise lines, local companies are playing a key role in the electrical operation of those facilities. Recently, three of those companies joined to form an even stronger corporation within the electrical engineering and maintenance industry.... - [Johnstown Tribune-Democrat](#)
- 02-11-2019 **Recent rain leads to mudslides in area**  
Warmer weather, increased rainfall and already saturated ground have left several areas of the county prone to mudslides and rockfalls, with several occurring locally Friday morning in various areas. Emergency crews were dispatched to trees and electrical wires down along... - [Huntingdon Daily News](#)



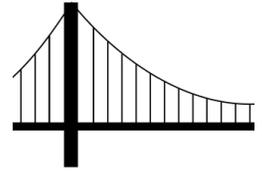
- 02-11-2019 **Rye Twp.: Drivers ignore winter risk on mountain roads**  
Rye Twp. supervisors clarified their winter maintenance policies for three mountain roads, leaving two unmaintained while making maintenance official on Lambs Gap Road up to the Cumberland County line. With the excessive rain, snow and freezing temperatures, Lambs Gap, Idle... - [Penn Live](#), [Patriot-News](#)
- 02-11-2019 **Thoughts on infrastructure, Sunday hunting and lead-testing in schools [opinion]**  
THE ISSUE: Among items of interest in the news in early February: ambitious efforts to repair state bridges in Lancaster County are progressing well; Sunday hunting moved a step closer to reality in Pennsylvania; and the School District of Lancaster informed parents that lead contamination was... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 02-11-2019 **Pittsburgh pushing for new policy to oversee vehicle towing**  
PITTSBURGH (AP) — The mayor of Pittsburgh is looking to overhaul car towing procedures in the city, saying they don't want to force competition between towing companies... - [AP](#)
- 02-11-2019 **What? Women Pay More Than Men for Auto Insurance? (Yup.)**  
It's a widespread belief that men pay more for automobile insurance than women. But that's only true for young adults. Several studies in 2018 and 2017 revealed that women over 25, particularly those between 40 and 60, often pay more than men — not less — for... - [Stateline.org](#)
- 02-11-2019 **WV Senate explores water infrastructure funding fix**  
With pipes from hundreds of water systems in the state continuing to crumble beneath residents' feet as their expiration dates creep closer and closer, the West Virginia Senate is entertaining a bill — the first of its kind to be introduced in the Legislature — to try and tackle one... - [Charleston Gazette-Mail](#)
- 02-11-2019 **Franklin, CXX iron out deal to fix rail crossing**  
Franklin Township supervisors have reached an agreement with CSX Transportation regarding repairs at the rail crossing on Railroad Lane. - [Gettysburg Times](#)
- 02-11-2019 **Air Products wins another round of approvals for new headquarters in Upper Macungie**  
Air Products moved closer to its April target date for construction of its new headquarters in Upper Macungie Township despite concerns over road widening and curbing. Supervisors granted preliminary land development approval Thursday for the industrial gas and chemicals provider's planned campus, including a... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 02-11-2019 **Storm prompts vehicle limits, lower speeds on major highways**  
Pennsylvania officials are announcing restrictions on some interstates will take effect overnight Monday into Tuesday as a significant winter storm is forecast... - [AP](#)



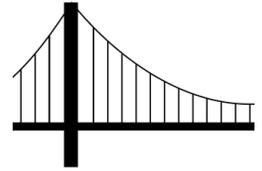
- 02-11-2019 **[Pittsburgh tow truck drivers doubtful about coming city procedures](#)**  
Monday morning's precipitation mix caused fender benders and crashes from the South Side to Squirrel Hill. Just after 7 a.m., emergency dispatchers could be heard over a police scanner radio discussing three cars that slid off Potomac Avenue in the city's Banksville... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-11-2019 **[Speed limits reduced on major roads across central Pa.](#)**  
PennDOT announced they are reducing speed limits on several major roads across central Pa., starting at 6 p.m. Monday. PennDOT advises that motorists avoid unnecessary travel. However, the speed limit is now reduced to 45 mph on the following roads: Interstate 81 in Franklin, Cumberland, Dauphin and Lebanon counties... - [Penn Live](#), [Patriot-News](#)
- 02-11-2019 **[PennDOT banning trucks and buses on some highways during Tuesday's winter weather](#)**  
The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and the Pennsylvania Turnpike will ban commercial vehicles, including trucks and buses, for periods Tuesday during the expected winter storm. After midnight, a full commercial vehicle ban will take effect on Interstate 70 in Fulton County (from the Maryland state line to the... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 02-11-2019 **[Winter storm triggers PA Turnpike, interstate restrictions](#)**  
Traffic restrictions for some commercial vehicles, all recreational vehicles and motorcycles will go into effect at midnight Monday on a section of the Pennsylvania Turnpike between New Stanton and Carlisle as transportation officials anticipate potentially hazardous weather... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-11-2019 **[Rachel Carson Bridge scheduled to close Monday for 18 months](#)**  
Motorists are reminded that the Rachel Carson Bridge, which links downtown Pittsburgh with the North Shore, is scheduled to close Monday through summer 2020. The 97-year-old span, also called the Ninth Street Bridge, will get a new concrete deck, structural steel repairs and a fresh coat of Aztec Gold... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-10-2019 **[Mayor Peduto looks to reform towing procedures in Pittsburgh](#)**  
The city of Pittsburgh plans to assign one towing company to work each of the six police zones, under a new proposal designed to "bring safety and customer protections to towing procedures" involving vehicles disabled on its streets, the mayor's office announced Friday.... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-10-2019 **[Philly can't achieve Vision Zero without change at PennDot | Opinion](#)**  
In 2018, news networks raced to report a growing threat to our safety and well-being. Industry players slammed their brakes to mobilize coordinated private sector efforts, sending markets to a screeching halt. Federal investigations shifted into high gear. The crisis? Five people dead and 200... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)



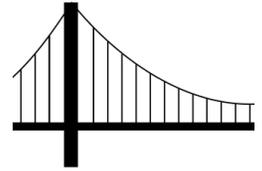
- 02-10-2019 **Sara Innamorato: It's time for automatic voter registration in Pa.**  
I watch my neighbors create positive change year-round. They volunteer to shovel sidewalks for seniors on their block and swap tomato-growing tips at the community garden. These are the actions that create and sustain a community, but the largest and most impactful changes we can make begin at the ballot box. Your vote... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-10-2019 **State allocates \$3 million for Penn Hills road projects**  
Penn Hills will receive a third of Allegheny County's allocation from the state's latest round of Multimodal Transportation Fund money. Gov. Tom Wolf announced in a news release Feb. 1 the county will receive \$9 million for transportation and other infrastructure projects. There are 50... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-10-2019 **\$530 million investment in Aurora Innovation could create Pittsburgh jobs**  
A \$530 million infusion into a self-driving startup could mean dozens of new jobs in Pittsburgh. Announced this week, Aurora Innovation raised the money from a group of investors that includes the Silicon Valley venture capital firm Sequoia Capital, Amazon and T. Rowe Price Group.... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-10-2019 **Parkway East 'bathtub' section and Parkway North ramp in Pittsburgh reopened to traffic**  
PennDOT District 11 reopened the "bathtub" area of the Parkway East in Pittsburgh this morning. The area was closed Friday evening due to flooding. In addition, the southbound Parkway North, I-279, ramp from the Fort Duquesne Bridge to the eastbound lanes of the Parkway East were also... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-10-2019 **Pittsburgh officials eye new towing rules in wake of shooting**  
Pittsburgh officials hope to keep towing companies from competing with each other to reach crash sites by designating one towing for each of the city's six police zones. The announcement comes less than a week after a dispute between two tow truck drivers escalated to violence, with one driver going after the second... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-10-2019 **Letters to the Editor 2/9/2019**  
Editor: I compliment the men and women who work for PennDOT, who have done a great job to clear our highways and keep our residents safe, along with the students who ride school buses. Department of Transportation employees have worked night and day and deserve our sincere gratitude. Many of us take this effort for granted.... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 02-10-2019 **Change is coming for people who need rides to medical appointments, and LANTA is worried**  
Residents who get door-to-door service for medical appointments and treatments face a change in how the Pennsylvania program will be run in the future, and LANTA is airing some of its concerns. The Medical Assistance Transportation Program, known as MATP, provides... - [Easton Express-Times](#)



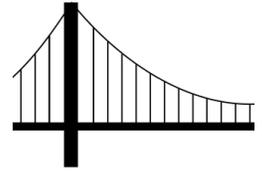
- 02-10-2019 **Truckers find themselves in tight spots by blindly following GPS**  
The yellow warning signs on both sides of the railroad bridge over Leesport Avenue in Onteluanee Township state in black letters, "11 FT 7 IN." In case there's any doubt about what that length refers to, the sign's designers included a pair of arrows indicating it's the distance from the... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 02-10-2019 **End of an era: Bieber's closing contrasts to bouyant launch of Reading-to-N.Y. express service**  
Forty-eight years ago, 30 invited guests of Carl R. Bieber Tourways Inc. boarded a bus in downtown Reading and rode it to much fanfare all the way to New York to celebrate the realization of a dream that nearly a half century later has ended with Bieber going under.... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 02-10-2019 **Other bus lines filling gap left by Bieber, which collapsed under load of debts**  
Commuters relying on Bieber Transportation Group had grown accustomed to inconveniences and made do. To deal with buses without heat, Donna Ross carried a blanket. To address a breakdown on the Schuylkill Expressway, she called an Uber. "It's been getting worse and worse," said Ross, who had been... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 02-10-2019 **Ticket prices and pickup locations announced for Klein Transportation bus route from Lehigh Valley to NYC**  
Klein Transportation announced ticket prices and pickup locations for daily routes to New York after Bieber Transportation's sudden closure announcement Friday. Klein is partnering with OurBus to provide daily express service to New York along the same route used by Beiber.... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 02-10-2019 **One Cheer for the Green New Deal**  
The first major policy intervention from Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, the noted social-media personality and future dictator-for-life of the Americas (I believe she's also a congresswoman of some sort), is a quite-extraordinary document: a blueprint for fighting climate change that... - [New York Times](#)
- 02-08-2019 **Discrimination, irreversible injury cited in new McBride Viaduct filing**  
Erie CPR Connect + Respect and the other plaintiffs want the court to halt a judge's October order that dismissed their federal court case. A group of Erie-area residents who filed a federal lawsuit in an attempt to save the McBride Viaduct from demolition wants the court to halt a... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 02-08-2019 **Retailers' frustrations resume along with Perkiomen Avenue construction**  
Effie Clauser started her list of complaints the day the digging began outside Effie's Charcoal Chef, the restaurant she has owned since 2007. "Regular customers were unable to reach the restaurant," she said, "and potential drive-by customers assumed we were closed due to... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 02-08-2019 **Bridge rehabilitation to begin in Limerick later this month**  
LIMERICK — Construction is scheduled to begin Friday, Feb. 18, on a project to rehabilitate the bridge carrying Main Street over Norfolk Southern Railroad in Limerick Township, PennDOT announced. Due to the nature of the repairs, Main Street will be closed and detoured... - [Pottstown Mercury](#)



- 02-08-2019 **[How to get your medical marijuana card in Pennsylvania: 4 \(sometimes\) easy steps](#)**  
There are only four steps, but there are snags patients should try to avoid. With medical marijuana dispensaries opening across the state, now is the time for potential medical marijuana patients to begin the process of obtaining your medical marijuana card. Here's what you need to do – and how to avoid the snags patients... - [Lebanon Daily News](#)
- 02-08-2019 **[Vernon Township approves purchase of new \\$108K dump truck](#)**  
VERNON TOWNSHIP — Supervisors approved the purchase of a nearly \$108,000 10-ton dump truck at Thursday's meeting. The 2020 International HV507 vehicle will be purchased from Five Star International in the amount of \$107,963.21. Supervisors also approved spending \$40,109 for U.S. Municipal to outfit the truck to meet township... - [Meadville Tribune](#)
- 02-08-2019 **[West Penn approves development agreement for Dollar General Store plans](#)**  
A proposed Dollar General Store to be stationed in West Penn Township has cleared its most recent hurdle. The township's board of supervisors on Monday unanimously approved the authorization of board Chairman Tony Prudenti to execute a development agreement between Snyders DG LLC and the township for Dollar General's... - [Lehighon Times News](#)
- 02-08-2019 **[The L Train Smells Bad. No, Really, It Smells Very, Very Bad.](#)**  
New York City's subway riders are used to a spectrum of smells, most of them unpleasant. But the mysterious fumes that have permeated the L train this week and made some subway riders and transit workers feel ill, go beyond the usual odors a New Yorker endures.... - [New York Times](#)
- 02-08-2019 **[Cuomo Warns of a 30 Percent Fare Hike if Congestion Pricing Fails](#)**  
Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo on Thursday warned of a possible 30 percent subway fare increase if state lawmakers do not approve a congestion pricing plan that would pay for improvements to the subway system. Mr. Cuomo threw down the gauntlet in a speech in Manhattan, pressuring... - [New York Times](#)
- 02-08-2019 **[When the Windshield Helps Drive the Car, a Repair Isn't So Simple](#)**  
Fixing a cracked windshield used to be the kind of repair a technician could perform in a few minutes in your office parking lot while you were at work. Today, the same repair could take hours and require expensive computerized equipment in a special facility. And it will probably cost... - [New York Times](#)
- 02-08-2019 **[For Car Buyers Who Got a Lemon, State Laws Vary Widely](#)**  
Motorists who live in New Jersey and have a major problem with a new vehicle have a handy tool: the best lemon law in the land. But about a third of the states have such weak lemon laws that consumers will have a tough time getting a fair deal, according to a study released this month by... - [New York Times](#)



- 02-08-2019 **County commissioners speak out against changes in transportation program**  
Armstrong County's board of commissioners voted Thursday to oppose impending changes in the state's medical assistance transportation program (MATP). Gov. Tom Wolf signed HB1677 into law on June 22, 2018, and it will transfer control of the MATP away from counties to a... - [Kittanning Leader-Times](#)
- 02-08-2019 **Mike DeWine makes case for more highway money, possibly from gas tax hike**  
While not explicitly endorsing an increase in Ohio's gasoline tax to replenish highway construction and maintenance dollars, Gov. Mike DeWine says the state has no choice but to find the money somewhere. A study committee appointed by DeWine quickly concluded Wednesday that the... - [Columbus Dispatch](#)
- 02-08-2019 **TSA stopped 10 passengers carrying handguns from boarding planes at WV airports in 2018**  
A total of 10 passengers were found to be carrying handguns in carry-on bags at West Virginia airports during 2018, up from eight passengers cited the previous year, the Transportation Security Administration announced on Thursday. The small increase is keeping with a 7 percent uptick in the number of... - [Charleston Gazette-Mail](#)
- 02-08-2019 **Bay Area bridge reopens after falling chunks of concrete close span twice in one day**  
The Richmond-San Rafael Bridge over San Francisco Bay was closed in both directions at two different times Thursday after football-sized chunks of concrete fell from its upper deck onto the level below, authorities said. The bridge was first shut down late Thursday morning, briefly reopening... - [Los Angeles Times](#)
- 02-08-2019 **DA can't prosecute trucker for homicide in triple-fatal crash based on 'mere speculation,' Pa. court says**  
A truck driver who police claim caused a crash with another rig and a passenger bus that killed three people can't be prosecuted on homicide by vehicle charges, a state Superior Court panel has ruled. Simply put, the state judges found investigators failed to provide evidence... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 02-08-2019 **Congress resumes quest to fund Trump's infrastructure plan**  
Two days after President Trump told Congress that the time had come to tackle roads, bridges and transit, the House Transportation Committee began the difficult task of crafting a bipartisan plan to bolster the nation's aging infrastructure. Congress has a narrow window — perhaps less than a year — to... - [Washington Post](#)
- 02-08-2019 **Sign of resistance: Does 30th Street Station flip-board hype foreshadow backlash to ADA changes?**  
Devastation erupted over the loss of 30th Street Station's "iconic" split-flap departures board, which came down on Jan. 26. Narratives grieved and honored the 1970s installed sign, secondarily mentioning its noncompliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)... - [Philadelphia Weekly](#)
- 02-08-2019 **American Airlines pilot arrested, suspected of being drunk**  
LONDON (AP) — Police say an American Airlines pilot has been arrested at Britain's Manchester Airport on suspicion of being drunk... - [AP](#)



02-08-2019

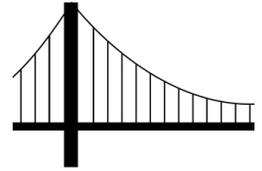
**10th Street Bypass closed with flooding expected**

The 10th Street Bypass was closed Friday as PennDOT anticipated flooding. The road is closed between the Parkway North and Fort Duquesne Boulevard after heavy rains hit the area Thursday and overnight, according to PennDOT. In addition, both ramps from the Parkway North to the 10th Street Bypass... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

02-08-2019

**Mayor Peduto looks to reform towing procedures in Pittsburgh**

Mayor Peduto looks to reform towing procedures in Pittsburgh The city of Pittsburgh plans to assign one towing company to work each of the six police zones, under a new proposal designed to “bring safety and customer protections to towing procedures” involving vehicles... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)



Transportation Recap is a weekly report on legislative and executive actions on transportation related legislation and is compiled and edited by PLS.

For subscription information, questions or more information contact PLS at [mypls@mypls.com](mailto:mypls@mypls.com) or 717-236-6984. Thank you, Lynn, Jeff, Mike, Matt Hess, Nina, Matt Hykes, Deborah, Kara, Cheryl, Aaron, Becky, Amyra, Nick, Jessica, Nicole, Robert, Emily and Andrew.

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Provided by Pennsylvania Legislative Services  
240 N. 3rd St. 6th Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
717.236.6984 phone 717.236.5097 fax  
[www.mypls.com](http://www.mypls.com)