



February 22 - 28, 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.

At 1:47 p.m. on Thursday, February 21, 2019 the House returned briefly and now stands adjourned until Monday, March 11, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

UPCOMING SESSION DAYS

House

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

Senate Appropriations Committee budget hearing with PennDOT (BH)

2/25/19, 3:00 p.m., North Office Building, Hearing Room #1

By Jeff Cox, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee held a budget hearing with the Department of Transportation (PennDOT) represented by Secretary Leslie Richards.

Sen. Ward, who also serves as chairman of the Transportation Committee, wanted to know how much of the department’s budget for this year was for the State Police. Sec. Richards responded that it was \$749 million. Sen. Ward wanted to know if there is a percentage that should remain in the budget if the legislature should otherwise find the State Police another dedicated fund. Sec. Richards commented the department wants to make sure the State Police is fully funded. She said the Motor License Fund should be used for roads, bridges, and transportation-related issues. Sec. Richards told the committee members that the State Police “definitely help us.” She indicated she would be happy to have a conversation about funding but she does not have a percentage offhand. Sec. Richards noted the department works closely with the State Police to keep Pennsylvania’s roadways passable during winter storms.

Sen. Ward asked about the status of the lawsuit filed by truckers challenging the Pennsylvania Turnpike’s annual payment to PennDOT for public transit. Sec. Richards reported the case has not been decided yet. She observed, “No one has a crystal ball to know when the judge will make a decision, so we are waiting, but up to this point the Turnpike has three payments that were due to PennDOT and the next one is coming up in April.”

Sen. Ward said it was her understanding that PennDOT was going to hire 246 people for REAL ID and she wanted to know the number of that complement right now. Sec. Richards responded, “We are in a good spot.” She added that PennDOT has a few more vacancies to fill, but they were able to bring on new personnel. According to Sec. Richards, they have 12 centers that will be issuing REAL IDs starting next month and they have five new centers that will be fully staffed with the rest retrofitted. Sen. Ward asked if some of the centers are scheduled to be opened the next week. Sec. Richards reported that some of the centers will open as soon as this Friday, with the remaining centers opening in March. She added that the department has had teams working on this for a year. Sec. Richards stated, “We anticipate everyone in Pennsylvania who would like a REAL ID prior to October 1, 2020, will have that REAL ID in their hand.” She provided an overview of the steps taken by the department to inform the public about REAL ID. Sen. Ward then wanted to know where the money came from for implementing REAL ID for facilities and upgrading IT. Sec. Richards said it comes from transportation funding. She added that part of it comes from the photo ID fee. Sec. Richards reported the department is charging a one-time fee of \$30 which will cover about half of the department’s costs. She also reported the department has put together a 10-year plan on improving the driver center experience. Sec. Richards said credit cards will be accepted at all PennDOT centers by this summer.



Sen. Ward wanted to know about PennDOT's involvement in combatting human trafficking. Sec. Richards commented, "I am thrilled that PennDOT has been able to be at the forefront of how a department of transportation can make a difference in identifying and training those people who are victims of human trafficking." She reported the department has trained all of its frontline employees including those at the driver license centers and has helped train over 15,000 transit employees in Pennsylvania. Sec. Richards pointed out that PennDOT has been "a national model" and it was "the first DOT to be out front on this issue."

Chairman Browne indicated the department's proposed 2019-20 budget projects has a \$12 million increase for driver license services and he wanted to know if this is for the driver license center improvements she mentioned in her responses to Sen. Ward. Sec. Richards replied, "Yes." She explained that with REAL ID, the costs are for new facilities. Sec. Richards pointed out every facility that issues a REAL ID has to have special security features. Chairman Browne requested the department provide the committee with a breakdown of where the \$12 million will be spent.

Sen. Martin wanted to know the total amount in the Motor License Fund (MLF). Sec. Richards responded that the amount is just over \$8 billion. Sen. Martin asked if part of that is for mass transit. Sec. Richards replied, "No." Sen. Martin then asked for a breakdown. She explained for highway-related issues it is \$6 billion; for public transportation, including multi-modal, it is \$2.2 billion. Sec. Richards pointed out the majority goes out for highway, bridge and road-related issues.

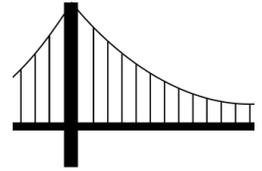
Sen. Martin asked for an update on the dredging of the Delaware River. Sec. Richards reported that the dredging is complete. She noted the governor has invested \$300 million in the Philadelphia port project. According to Sec. Richards, they have been able to get new cranes and attract new developers. Sen. Martin wanted to know how often the issue of dredging the river will have to be revisited. Sec. Richards commented she believes the next conversation will not be dredging because of how well the dredging was done. She said the next conversation will be how the rest of the commonwealth will connect to the port in Philadelphia.

Sen. Martin wanted to know about the elimination of the vehicle registration stickers and its impact. Sec. Richards responded that PennDOT has seen no decline in registrations. She reported that 23 counties charge the extra five dollars as allowed by Act 89 to take care of their local roads and bridges. Sec. Richards reported the department is saving \$4 million per year because the department does not have to do as many mailings and no longer has to buy the stickers. Chairman Browne requested a breakdown of how the \$4 million is being reinvested.

Sen. Blake commented that he received a few inquiries in his district from the trucking industry and dairy farmers about the commercial ban on state highways. He wanted to know if the department has any protocols on determining when to impose a ban. Sec. Richards explained the department works closely with the dairy industry and the stakeholders. She stated, "Every decision is based on safety first." Sec. Richards said the department took a look at how they were performing their winter operations during heavy storms and they were seeing a number of accidents, and often tractor-trailers were at the head of the line. She said the department worked closely with the State Police and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) to figure how to be more proactive and how to keep traffic moving safely on all of the roadways. Sec. Richards reported the new protocols on truck restrictions have been "highly successful." She said they are aware a restriction can hurt an industry.

Sen. Blake asked about changes in medical assistance transportation. Sec. Richards indicated the department has heard from public transit agencies and PennDOT is working with the Department of Human Services (DHS). She said PennDOT has voiced their concerns about how it could impact transit agencies. According to Sec. Richards, the federal government requested DHS to make this change.

Sen. Vogel reported there is a proposal in the governor's Pennsylvania farm bill that would allow an increase in the width of farm equipment from 16 feet to 18 feet. He said it is his understanding that PennDOT has expressed concerns with the proposed increase. Sec. Richards said PennDOT is aware of the proposal and they have spoken to the governor's office about it. She indicated the department is supportive of the bill. Sec. Richard stated she would be happy to meet with Sen.



Vogel or any of the stakeholders about the proposal. She said, “18 feet is wide.” Sec. Richards explained that some of the roads this equipment would be on are 10 feet wide so it would cover the entire roadway. She said the department would like to talk about possible signage or some sort of notification.

Sen. Vogel asked for an update on the projects funded by Act 89. Sec. Richards explained the department has a “Decade of Investment” list and she reported 90 percent of the projects on that list have either been completed or are in the process of being designed. According to Sec. Richards, since 2015 the department has completed nearly \$10 billion worth of transportation contracts. She told committee members over 20,000 miles of roadway have been improved and just under 2,000 bridges. Sec. Richards asserted, “Act 89 has been a huge success in moving those projects forward.” She cautioned, “I would like to remind everybody that when Act 89 was passed, the studies showed that we would need an additional \$3.5 billion per year to take care of our transportation network and Act 89 got us to about \$2.4 billion, and in 2020, it was estimated we would need \$7.2 billion.”

Sen. Phillips-Hill asked if the department has the right tools to assure that when a contractor is awarded a contract they will comply with the contract and get a project done in a timely fashion. Sec. Richards explained the department monitors every contract very carefully. She pointed out the department is restricted when it comes to low-bid construction contracts and the department does not have the flexibility to pick between contractors unless there is an egregious reason.

Sen. Phillips-Hill reported District 8 in south central Pennsylvania has had significant challenges in filling various positions. She wanted to know if this is a local problem or if it is a labor shortage across the state. Sec. Richards responded, “We do have issues.” She pointed out her first meeting this morning was with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), the union the department employees belong to. Sec. Richards indicated the department is having trouble recruiting CDL (commercial driver’s license) drivers, who are the people who drive the department’s heavy equipment. She commented it is tough in certain areas and she was told there are billboards in southwest Pennsylvania which say “if you have a CDL, earn \$100,000.” Sec. Richards spoke of the difficulty of competing when the department has an entry salary of \$33,000 to \$35,000. She also spoke of the need for diesel mechanics as well. Sec. Richards reported the department has been working with the Office of Administration and AFSCME on addressing the issue.

Sen. Street wanted to discuss traffic congestion in southeast Pennsylvania. He pointed out the Philadelphia suburbs now have a larger population than the city of Philadelphia. Sen. Street commented, “It seems to be the failure to invest in transit infrastructure can have serious consequences for commerce and for movement throughout the southeast.” He asked for the department’s response. Sec. Richards cited a recent report that indicated two of the top 10 most congested cities in the United States. She said Pittsburgh ranked seventh and Philadelphia ranked ninth. According to Sec. Richards, Pittsburgh got worse by five percent. She provided an overview of the economic impact of the congestion in both areas. Sec. Richards commented, “There is no scenario in the future that does not fully require transit as a 100 percent investment.” She continued, “No matter how we look at transportation, we have to move the most amount of people in the least amount of space and you can only do that by trains, subways and buses.”

Sen. Langerholc reported the Joint State Government Commission recently released a report on removing certain counties from the emissions testing program, and in the report they indicate seven counties could be removed with minimal or no environmental impact. He noted one of the counties he represents, Cambria, is one of those counties. Sen. Langerholc indicated garages in Cambria County are required to conduct certain testing and to buy additional machines to conduct them with the machines costing up to \$10,000. He wanted to know why they are being continually burdened with this requirement. Sec. Richards said she totally understands the requirement is burdensome but it is a federal requirement and failure to comply puts the federal transportation dollars for Pennsylvania in jeopardy.

Sen. Aument asked about the process being made on addressing structurally-deficient bridges. Sec. Richards reported that the number is below 3,000 and it was above 6,000 in 2008. She also reported PennDOT has completed 1,162 bridge projects. Sec. Richards told lawmakers, “We are really moving in the right direction there.”

Rep. Santarsiero commented he voted for Act 89 while he served in the state House. He wanted to know if the administration



has given any thought to what the future funding mechanism might be. Sec. Richards responded that the states are looking to the federal government to step up to provide additional funding for transportation.

Sen. Argall said he was recently asked by a constituent in Berks County about reports that thousands of citizens from other countries registered and voted in Pennsylvania and the Department of State utilizes PennDOT's motor voter program. He asked how PennDOT differentiates noncitizen drivers' licenses that are shared with the Department of State. Sec. Richards responded that as soon as PennDOT learned of that issue they worked with the Department of State and the problem has been fixed. Sen. Argall asked if it has been fixed for the people who made the mistake or is it corrected from this point forward. Sec. Richards indicated that is a Department of State issue and they would know the details.

Pointing out he resides in Erie County, which is part of PennDOT District 1, Sen. Laughlin wanted to know if the formula to allocate road improvement funds could be readjusted. Sec. Richards commented that everyone in Pennsylvania would agree that District 1 gets the roughest winters. She acknowledged the roadways in that district do receive significant wear and tear. Sec. Richards said the department looks at the formulas and tries to spread the money out so all of the areas have the money they need. She also said they would take another look at the formula and report back to Sen. Laughlin.

Sen. Mensch asked about line painting on the roadways. Sec. Richards commented often the department has to repaint every year to make sure the lines can be seen. She reported the department is working with the Turnpike Commission regarding recessed line painting.

Sen. Collett asked if the remaining bridge projects are the slower and more costly projects. Sec. Richards responded that the remaining bridge projects are the more complex and costlier ones which will take more time. She added they can be complex for a variety of reasons.

Sen. Killion urged the department to look at the use of recycled glass for use on highways. He indicated the same technology had been and is being used in Europe.

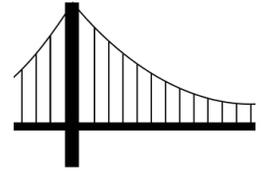
Pointing out he is a member of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Sen. Yaw spoke of the importance of stream cleaning and how PennDOT maintenance workers could watch for streams that need to be cleaned. Sec. Richards responded that it would cost money and noted the department is prohibited from cleaning streams with Motor License Fund moneys.

Sen. Leach asked about the steps being taken to fix the traffic congestion on the Schuylkill Expressway. Sec. Richards outlined the several projects the department is undertaking to address the issues. Sen. Leach asked if people will see a difference immediately. Sec. Richards said people will see improvement.

Sen. Ward cited a recent news article about unprocessed applications for REAL ID. She asked if there is a backlog. Sec. Richards responded, "No."

Sen. Santarsiero asked about the I-95/Turnpike interchange project in Bucks County. He reported two directions have been completed but two remain. He wanted to know why all four directions were not done at the same time. Sec. Richards explained the Turnpike Commission had to do the project in two phases. She added the project is being worked on and she will have someone contact Sen. Santarsiero to update him on the project.

Chairman Browne strongly suggested the department look at its various funding formulas and recommend any changes that need to be done statutorily. Sec. Richards indicated the department does look at them on a regular basis. Chairman Browne noted the department's proposed budget has some major moves in it, including the amount of federal dollars, the amount for highway safety improvement, share-a-ride program and other items. He spoke of the need for further discussions. Sec. Richards recapped some of the problems the department is facing because of flood damage, the litigation involving the Turnpike's contribution to the department and other factors.



House Appropriations Committee budget hearing with PennDOT (BH)

2/26/19, 1:00 p.m., 140 Main Capitol Building

By Jeff Cox, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

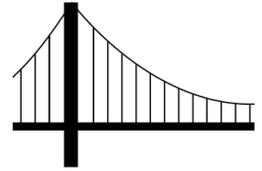
The committee held a budget hearing with the Department of Transportation (PennDOT), represented by Secretary Leslie Richards.

Rep. Brown noted that revenue from the liquid fuel tax are projected to drop and she wanted Sec. Richards to comment on her thoughts on a fair mechanism for transportation funding as more and more people use electric cars and other fuel efficient vehicles. Sec. Richards observed, "In transportation we always have to think short term and we have to think long term." She described "short term" as filling potholes and making sure paving gets done and "long term" as the department's funding. Sec. Richards commented, "While we completely support wholeheartedly more fuel efficient cars, but as it is set up in Pennsylvania right now the gallons of gas that are purchased are a big part of our funding." She pointed out that as fewer gallons get purchased because of more fuel efficient cars the department has to figure out other ways to maintain funding. Sec. Richards mentioned that after the hearing she will be travelling to Washington, DC, to talk to federal partners about the need for them to step up when it comes to providing funding. According to Sec. Richards, the federal government has not "stepped up" since 1993 with a significant revenue package on the federal side. She reported there are conversations at the national level on mileage-based user fees, congestion pricing, and different tolling options. Sec. Richards spoke of gathering all of that information to determine what makes sense for Pennsylvania in the long term. She noted Pennsylvania is losing \$100 million per year in buying power in the Motor License Fund and "that is significant." Sec. Richards also noted the construction program for this year is anticipated to be \$2.2 billion and last year it was \$2.5 billion.

Rep. Bullock asked about the department's diversity efforts. Sec. Richards commented that one of her top priorities is to advocate and promote diversity and inclusion within the department as well as the businesses the department contracts out to. She reported the department has its highest numbers ever as far as women employees. Sec. Richards also reported the department has 9.3 percent minorities in its complement. She commented, "While we are showing improvement, we can do better." Sec. Richards also outlined other steps and programs the department has undertaken to promote diversity and inclusion.

Rep. Greiner asked about the Highway Maintenance Emergency Fund. He commented that it is his understanding the fund is budgeted for about \$20 million for weather-related emergency project work. Rep. Greiner also said the costs PennDOT incurred last year were more than six times the budgeted amount. He wanted an idea of how the department made up for the funding and what are the plans for the future. Sec. Richards responded that the department had a historic year last year when it came to flooding. She said it was the highest in the past ten years. Sec. Richards explained the department does budget for about \$20 million per year for emergency requests. She pointed out that sometime it can go as high as \$30 million. Sec. Richards reported that this year \$127.5 million was spent. She commented, "We hope this is an anomaly and an unusual year." Sec. Richards said the department is starting to see rain events more often and they have to start planning that is not an unusual blip. She explained that these are things they have to get done and cannot put off. Sec. Richards reported the department immediately applied for money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for federal reimbursements and got a portion back from that. According to Sec. Richards, they are expecting \$30 million coming back from the federal government but the department will not get those payments for the next few years. She explained the department has its Rural Commercial Roads program which has been reduced due to the fact a portion of it was taken to help with some of the rural emergency roadways that needed to be fixed because of the flooding. Sec. Richards further explained they had to borrow from other projects and delay some projects to get some of the money. She said they had to take money from various lines in their budget in order to do repairs due to the flooding.

Rep. Greiner then wanted an overview of the funding levels for the shared ride program. Sec. Richards reported the department does over 400,000 trips per year for people with disabilities and provides 3.5 million shared ride trips. She cautioned, "We are at a time where our transit funding is really in the balance here and quite honestly it is in crisis." Sec. Richards if the turnpike litigation does not get decided at all or it decided unfavorably, starting July 1 of this year the department will have to start making cuts and part of those cuts will be \$10 million for transit rides by people with disabilities.



Chairman Saylor asked why the department would cut that and not look at raising fees or other areas when this program is so critical for a person with a disability. He said they should consider taking money from other transit funding items. Sec. Richards said the department subsidizes a large portion of transit for people with disabilities. She indicated it is up to the transit provider to make the decisions where they cut costs.

Rep. Kinsey wanted to know if there is a possibility of delays in a person receiving a REAL ID card and if there is a backlog in processing the cards. He also asked about the department's roll out of REAL ID. Sec. Richards responded, "We have been working very hard on this ever since the legislature allowed us to work on this." She explained the department was given a certain amount of time to get REAL ID rolling and be in compliance. Sec. Richards said that in order to get REAL ID into the hands of single Pennsylvania driver license holder who wants a REAL ID, the department started a program of pre-verification of documents needed for REAL ID. She pointed out there is no backlog but some of the verifications take longer than others. Sec. Richards noted the department built five new centers and have retrofitted seven others for a total of 12 across the Commonwealth. Sec. Richards pointed out every facility that issues a REAL ID has to have special security features.

Rep Delozier asked about the timeline for regulations implementing the requirement for school buses to be equipped with cameras. Sec. Richards said she did not know the exact timeline but the department will get back to the committee with the information. She added the department has been working with school districts on the regulations.

Regarding REAL ID, Rep. Delozier commented that she has received several telephone calls in her office. She said that it was her understanding the fee to be charged on the license would be paying for the system and it would not be astronomical cost for the taxpayer to comply. Rep. Delozier noted the budget has \$29 million for REAL ID this year and over six years an additional \$146 million. She said the conversation had been that the fee that was charged would pay for REAL ID. Sec. Richards explained they had to decide whether to charge for this license and, if they were going to charge, they had to decide what they would charge. Sec. Richards noted some states are not charging but most states are. She said they determined \$30 was fair and it covers half of the costs. Sec. Richards commented that over time the fee is allowing them to upgrade all of the driver license centers. Rep. Delozier stated that she understands the department anticipates an estimated 25 percent REAL ID adoption rate or approximately 2.5 million current residents. She expressed concern with the costs. Sec. Richards noted it is a federal requirement and Pennsylvania has to comply. Rep. Delozier argued it seems the people who don't want REAL ID are paying for those who want REAL ID.

Rep. Fiedler wanted to know how the department is adapting to the changing climate and extreme weather. Sec. Richards said the department has a resiliency plan that is looking at how the department is being impacted. She pointed out it is not just flooding but landslides as well from the wet weather. Sec. Richards reported the department is working collaboratively with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) trying to see what kind of projects can be accelerated that are upstream. She also said the department is pleased with the governor's Restore Pennsylvania proposal which will provide an avenue for communities and people impacted by emergencies to rebuild their lives and help the department and communities to make improvements to mitigate risks.

Rep. Fiedler asked what other transit services could be cut in addition to providing rides for people with disabilities. Sec. Richards explained transit funding is being impacted by litigation at the Turnpike Commission. She reported that three payments from the Turnpike to the department have not been made so far. Sec. Richards said a fourth payment is due in April and may not be able to be made by the Turnpike depending where the litigation stands. She did indicate the department has been able to move money around and use some money that had not been spent yet to keep everybody whole until June 30 of this year. Sec. Richards stated that beginning July 1 of this year if those payments are not made, the distribution for transit capital projects will be dramatically lower and there will be negative impacts on Amtrak service, capital investments for ADA compliance at train stations, for rail cars, and other infrastructure.

Rep. Heffley expressed concern with the two shutdowns of the state highway system because of weather events and the impact of those shutdowns on trucking companies and other businesses. He wanted to know what has changed that the



state is shutting down the highway system. Sec. Richards explained the department works very closely with the State Police and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) on these decisions. She reported that truck traffic has been restricted for years so this is not something new. Sec. Richards explained that this year it has been done more often. She explained that this past November people were trapped in their cars for long periods of time and a majority of that was caused by tractor trailers. Rep. Heffley urged the administration to change the policy. Sec. Richards pointed out that after every event when the truck restriction has been imposed the moment the restriction has been removed there was free flowing traffic. She said they are aware the restriction impacts businesses and they are working with Motor Truck Association and other stakeholders to make this protocol as efficient as possible.

Rep. Comitta wanted to know how PennDOT is preparing and planning for Pennsylvania's growing aging population. Sec. Richards responded the department works with the Department of Aging and fully supports keeping people in their homes as long as possible. She spoke of transportation's role in assisting people to age in place. Sec. Richards said the department meets with neighborhoods and communities where their projects are located and looks at their concerns and plans.

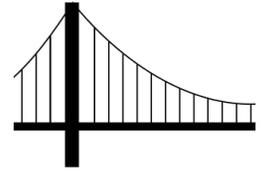
Rep. Lawrence expressed his concern with the solvency of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC). He wanted to know what the plan is if the courts rule against the PTC and the transit payments are stopped and the PTC it is forced to retroactively pay back the collected tolls from the truckers. Sec. Richards commented that people don't realize that after Act 44 sunsets in 2022 the debt payments on those borrowings still need to be made. She said the PTC has not made three payments so far and in order to make those payments they have to borrow for it. Sec. Richards indicated the committee has been provided with a chart that shows the cuts the department anticipates if payments are not made by July 1. Rep. Lawrence asked if the PTC is forced to pay back the tolls, it is possible the PTC will have to declare bankruptcy. Sec. Richards, who also serves as PTC Chair, replied, "I don't know but we have to start talking about what that would mean." She added, "It would be catastrophic to pay back \$6 billion right away." Sec. Richards pointed out the overall debt is \$11 billion.

Noting the Philadelphia International Airport is in her district, Rep. Donatucci wanted to know what PennDOT does to support the Pennsylvania aviation industry to compete regionally. According to Sec. Richards, Pennsylvania has 128 public use airports and about the same number of private use airports. She said the department does oversee all of the public use airports and tries to help them reduce some of their overhead costs. Sec. Richards noted the department has a Bureau of Aviation to help assist those airports.

Rep. Gabler asked if the current service delivery model for the Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) provides the most cost effective transportation solution for the consumers of the shared ride programs. Sec. Richards responded that the shared ride services are a challenge. Regarding MATP, Sec. Richards said she is aware there has been a change in that program in the Department of Human Services (DHS). She explained it is a federal regulation that a MATP provide options on how DHS can implement the program. Sec. Richards emphasized it is a federal regulation and not a mandate as she stated at the Senate Appropriations Committee hearing. She reported DHS has decided to go with a new brokerage program. Sec. Richards said PennDOT is happy with their discussions with DHS and they have given PennDOT input and opportunities to comment back and forth as the RFA (Request for Applications) goes out. She did say PennDOT is hearing from the transit agencies and they have expressed concern with the proposal. Rep. Gabler asked if PennDOT monitors the current shared ride grantees. Sec. Richards explained the department requires strategic plans from the transit agencies and the department does surveys of the agencies. She told members every single county will be impacted by the change.

Rep. Schweyer, who serves on the board of his local transit authority, pointed out the proposed change is a mandated legislative change passed as part of the Fiscal Code last year. He said the proposed brokerage program will give private companies the ability to deny service to an individual. Sec. Richards said the department has been making DHS aware of the concerns raised by the transit agencies. She noted PennDOT has had "a lot of productive discussions this year" on the proposed change.

Rep. James urged a delay in the implementation of the DHS proposal. He then asked for an update on the Public-Private Partnership Bridge Replacement Program. Sec. Richards reported the program is nearing completion and 541 out of 558



poor-conditioned bridges have been replaced with the remainder being replaced by the end of this year. She said these improvements were delivered over a roughly four-year period instead of the normal 8 to 12 years.

Rep. McCarter wanted to know how much money would be saved if a funding plan was put into place this year. Sec. Richards said it would be difficult to put a number on it. She explained that if a plan was put into place it would give the department the ability to plan future projects. Rep. McCarter asked if any funding will be coming out of Washington. Sec. Richards responded that there has been “some buzz” that Congress will do something. Noting Congress has not had a major funding bill enacted since 1993, Sec. Richards said Congress “needs to do something.”

Rep. Grove asked about the lawsuit regarding a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) He question whether this was a good PLA to take to court. Rep. Grove said the agreement was to be signed by John Dougherty, a union leader who has recently been indicted by federal prosecutors on several charges. Sec. Richards explained that the reason the department went forward with the PLA is colleagues in other states have found PLAs to be very useful and the work gets done on time and under budget.

Rep. Grove asked for a status of the MATP. Sec. Richards responded that it falls under DHS.

Rep. Grove then wanted to know about the department’s efforts to combat human trafficking. Sec. Richards responded, “I am thrilled that PennDOT has been able to be at the forefront of how a department of transportation can make a difference in identifying and training those people who are victims of human trafficking.” She reported the department has trained all of its frontline employees including those at the driver license centers and has helped train over 15,000 transit employees in Pennsylvania. Sec. Richards pointed out that PennDOT has been “a national model” and it was “the first DOT to be out front on this issue.”

Rep. Davis commented that public transportation is a lifeline for many of his constituents and he wanted to know if the department is exploring other funding sources. Sec. Richards said the department has two active committees, one in the southeast and one in the southwest, who are gathering information and preparing studies of the issue. She indicated both studies will include recommended funding options.

Rep. Keller noted the department’s five year projections for funding transportation projects and the decline in the funding. Sec. Richards explained the department has limited resources and is \$3 billion short in funding. She said, “We need more revenue.” Rep. Keller argued it would be more efficient to drive down costs before asking taxpayers for more money. Sec. Richards said the problem is the department does not have the resources to take care of the transportation system and they cannot keep on it. She asserted the department is trying to maintain one of the largest and oldest transportation systems in the country.

Rep. Struzzi said he has heard of problems with the durability of the material used by the department on the roads and bridges. Sec. Richards responded that the department is constantly looking at the materials they use and seek better alternatives. Rep. Struzzi then asked about the difficulty in attracting quality employees. Sec. Richards said it is a challenge for the department and they are having trouble competing. She indicated the department is having trouble recruiting CDL (commercial driver’s license) drivers, who are the people who drive the department’s heavy equipment. She commented it is tough in certain areas and she was told there are billboards in southwest Pennsylvania which say “if you have a CDL, earn \$100,000.” Sec. Richards spoke of the difficulty of competing when the department has an entry salary of \$33,000 to \$35,000. She also spoke of the need for diesel mechanics as well. Sec. Richards reported the department has been working with the Office of Administration and AFSCME on addressing the issue.

Rep. Sanchez wanted to know why there is a reduction in the amount of funding for the Green Light Go program. Sec. Richards responded that it is based on revenue projections for the coming year.

Rep. Hahn expressed concern with permits being held up and wanted to know if the department is looking at how permits are handled. Sec. Richards said she would have someone from her staff meet with Rep. Hahn to discuss her concerns.



Rep. Owlett asked for an update on the I-99 project in his area. Sec. Richards said the project is being worked on and she wants to make it happen.

Rep. Warner asked about a project in Fayette County. Sec. Richards responded that it is a PTC project and they are moving forward in phases. She added she will have the PTC provide him with the details on the project.

Rep. Hennessey, chairman of the Transportation Committee, commented that it seems the restrictions during winter events are being peeled off quicker. He expressed concern with the number of citations being issued by the State Police when the restrictions are in place and urged that the troopers show more discretion in issuing them.

Carroll, minority chairman of the Transportation Committee, applauded the department in their efforts to find more efficiencies in its operations and the effort to put the brakes on the MATP proposal.

Chairman Saylor mentioned the Mount Rose interchange project in York County and the problems it has caused. He also spoke of the increased use of natural gas, propane, and electric vehicles and the need to come up with a fair rate for the operators of those vehicles to pay.

- 30 -

Bullet.in.Points

No Bullet.in.Points this week.

Cosponsor Memos

HCO 77	Owlett, Clint(R)	Designates a bridge located on Pennsylvania Route 14 as the Troy Area Veterans Memorial Bridge.
HCO 600	DeLuca, Anthony(D)	Makes it a violation to consider an individual's education level or occupation when underwriting or rating auto insurance coverage.
HCO 739	Rothman, Greg(R)	Permits the use of electronic power of attorney documents when ownership of a vehicle is transferred for insurance purposes.
HCO 982	Ryan, Frank(R)	Amends the Prevailing Wage Act to provide a clear definition of what actions taken with respect to road repairs are subject to the act's requirements.
HCO 983	Ryan, Frank(R)	Amends the Prevailing Wage Act to provide a clear definition of what actions taken with respect to local road repairs are subject to the act's requirements.
HCO 990	Rothman, Greg(R)	Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) to define electric low-speed scooters.
HCO1065	Keller, Mark(R)	Brings organized motorcycle rides into compliance with Title 75.
HCO1276	McNeill, Jeanne(D)	Prohibits the transporting of dogs in an external section of a vehicle, such as a truck bed or the roof of a car, with exceptions.



HCO1306	Harkins, Patrick(D)	The Jake Schwab Worker Safety Bill extends OSHA protections to public sector workers.
HCO1321	Goodman, Neal(D)	Designates a bridge in Shenandoah, Schuylkill County as the Edward Kleha Memorial Bridge.
HCO1327	Marshall, Jim(R)	Allows for the transportation of multiple hot ingots for a distance of up to 125 miles.
HCO1328	Marshall, Jim(R)	Allows PennDOT to authorize the operation of an autonomous shuttle vehicle on an approved route.
HCO1335	Toohil, Tarah(R)	Creates a program to provide subsidies to pay for drivers training, licensing, and auto policies to allow young drivers to afford their own policy.
HCO1355	Emrick, Joe(R)	Three-bill package reforming the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission.
HCO1379	Longietti, Mark(D)	Ensures adequate funding is available to pay for damage to highways caused by excess weight vehicles by requiring PennDOT to publish a revised schedule of bonding amounts.
SCO 232	Killion, Thomas(R)	Centralizes pipeline safety inspection within the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and requires interstate agents in pipeline inspection.
SCO 621	Phillips-Hill, Kristin (F)(R)	Designates the bridge carrying State Route 2087 over the East Branch Codorus Creek in York County as the Christopher M. Wrinkle and Tosca Memorial Bridge.

Bill Actions

HB 26	Snyder, Pam(D)	(PN 41) Amends the Automobile Lemon Law, adding motorcycles to the definition of a new motor vehicle. Effective in 60 days.
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Bill History:

02-20-19 H Reported as committed from House Appropriations
02-20-19 Laid out for discussion 1:05pm
02-20-19 Third consideration 1:06pm
02-20-19 H Final Passage (Vote: Y:168/N: 6)
02-26-19 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Consumer Protection & Prof. Licensure

HB 580	Sankey, Thomas(R)	(PN 587) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in registration of vehicles, providing for contributions for sexual offense evidence testing and establishing the Sexual Offense Evidence Testing Account. The bill establishes that within one year, the department shall provide the following: the ability of a person renewing a driver's license or identification card electronically through the department's publicly accessible Internet website to make a contribution for evidence testing; and the ability of a person renewing a vehicle registration electronically through the department's publicly accessible Internet website to make a contribution for evidence testing. Effective in 60 days.
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Bill History:

02-21-19 H Filed
02-28-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

[HB 592](#) [Irvin, Rich\(R\)](#)

Act designating a bridge on that portion of Pennsylvania Route 305 over Shaver's Creek in Barree Township, Huntingdon County, as the Private Harold E. "Jim" Knode Memorial Bridge.

Bill History:

02-22-19 H Filed

[HB 594](#) [Hershey, Jonathan \(F\)\(R\)](#)

Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in registration of vehicles, further providing for vehicles exempt from registration; and, in licensing of drivers, further providing for persons exempt from licensing.

Bill History:

02-22-19 H Filed

[HB 598](#) [DeLuca, Anthony\(D\)](#)

Amends the Unfair Insurance Practices Act, further providing for unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices defined.

Bill History:

02-22-19 H Filed

[HB 613](#) [Ryan, Frank\(R\)](#)

(PN 608) Amends the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Act further providing for the definitions of locally funded, maintenance work, and public body. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

02-25-19 H Filed
02-28-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Labor and Industry

[HB 614](#) [Ryan, Frank\(R\)](#)

(PN 609) Amends the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Act further providing for definitions and for specifications; and providing for protection of workmen. The bill also prohibits the division of a project to circumvent the act. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

02-25-19 H Filed
02-28-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Labor and Industry



[HB 631](#) [Rothman, Greg\(R\)](#)

(PN 626) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in general provisions, adding that "motor vehicle" includes an electric low-speed scooter; in certificate of title and security interests, further providing for vehicles not requiring certificate of title; in registration of vehicles, further providing for vehicles exempt from registration; in rules of the road in general, further providing for prohibitions in specified places; in special vehicles and pedestrians, providing for electric low-speed scooters; and, in powers of Department of Transportation and local authorities, further providing for specific powers of Department of Transportation and local authorities. Every person operating an electric low-speed scooter shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the operator of a pedalcycle. No person under the age sufficient to operate an automobile shall operate an electric low-speed scooter and no person shall operate an electric low-speed scooter at a speed greater than 15 miles per hour. Every electric low-speed scooter when operated between sunset and sunrise shall be equipped with lights and reflectors. Effective immediately.

Bill History:

02-26-19 H Filed
02-28-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

[HB 632](#) [Rothman, Greg\(R\)](#)

(PN 627) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in miscellaneous provisions, further providing for odometer disclosure requirements stipulating that the power of attorney need not be notarized and may be signed electronically. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

02-26-19 H Filed
02-28-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

[HB 634](#) [Keller, Mark\(R\)](#)

(PN 629) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in general provisions relating to operation of vehicles, further providing for obedience to authorized persons directing traffic and providing for drivers in organized motorcycle processions; in rules of the road in general, further providing for following too closely; in inspection of vehicles, further providing for inspection by police or Commonwealth personnel; and, in enforcement, further providing for investigation by police officers. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

02-26-19 H Filed
02-28-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

[HB 671](#) [Heffley, Doyle\(R\)](#)

Amends Title 3 (Agriculture), in food protection, further providing for definitions, for license required and for powers of department.



Bill History:

[SB 76](#) [Argall, David\(R\)](#)

02-28-19 H Filed

(PN 293) The Property Tax Independence Act provides for tax levies and information related to taxes; authorizes the imposition of a personal income tax or an earned income tax by a school district subject to voter approval; provides for imposition of and exclusions from a sales and use tax for the stabilization of education funding, for increase to the personal income tax, for certain licenses, for hotel occupancy tax, for procedure and administration of the tax, for expiration of authority to issue certain debt and for reporting by local government units of debt outstanding; establishes the Education Stabilization Fund and the Education Cost Commission; provides for disbursements from the Education Stabilization Fund and for senior citizen property tax rent rebate assistance; and makes repeals. The bill provides for the elimination of school property taxes and authorizes school districts to levy, assess and collect a tax on personal income or a tax on earned income and net profits. The sales and use tax is replaced by the Sales and Use Tax for the Stabilization of Education Funding, which shall be seven percent. Portions are effective June 30, 2020; portions are effective January 1, 2020; and the remainder is effective immediately.

Bill History:

[SB 283](#) [Killion, Thomas\(R\)](#)

02-22-19 S Filed

02-22-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

(PN 304) Amends the Gas and Hazardous Liquids Pipeline Act to remove the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission from the powers and duties of the act and replace the responsibility with the Department of Transportation. Further this legislation provides for the department to apply for federal delegation regarding commonwealth pipeline safety for the enforcement of the federal hazardous liquid pipeline safety requirements. Effective in six months.

Bill History:

[SB 338](#) [Langerholc, Wayne\(R\)](#)

02-26-19 S Filed

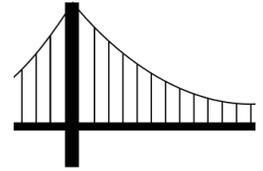
02-26-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Consumer Protection & Prof. Licensure

(PN 325) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in size, weight and load, increasing the maximum width of vehicles of 18 feet (from 16 feet). Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

02-27-19 S Filed

02-27-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Transportation



Upcoming Events

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

PA Public Utility Commission

March 12, 2019 - 9:00 a.m. Commonwealth Keystone Building, Hearing Room 1, 2nd Floor, 400 North St., Harrisburg

Damage Prevention Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-1740

Department of Transportation

March 13, 2019 - 9:00 a.m. Conference Room 112, PEMA Headquarters, 1310 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg

State Transportation Innovation Council (SITC) Meeting. For additional information: (717) 787-9880

PA Public Utility Commission

March 14, 2019 - 10:00 a.m. Commonwealth Keystone Building, Hearing Room 1, 400 North St., Harrisburg

Public Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-1740

PA Turnpike Commission

March 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

Delaware River Port Authority/PATCO

March 20, 2019 - 9:00 a.m. One Port Center, 11th Floor, 2 Riverside Drive, Camden, NJ

Board Meeting. For additional information: (856) 968-2253

In the News

02-28-2019

[Auto tariff showdown: EU has strong incentives to reach a deal with U.S.](#)

Auto tariff showdown: EU has strong incentives to reach a deal with U.S. If the European Union wants to avoid tariffs on automobile exports to the United States, it needs to ramp up talks with the U.S. If the European Union wants to avoid tariffs on automobile exports to the... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)



- 02-28-2019 **Study author: Feds should examine reasons for sharp increase in pedestrian deaths**
A 35 percent increase in pedestrian deaths during the past 10 years is so stark that the federal Department of Transportation should consider a study to recommend steps to change the trend, a national traffic safety expert said Wednesday. Richard Retting, safety director for Sam Schwartz Transportation... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-28-2019 **Ciavarella steps down as Hanover Area president amid bus issue, but stays on board**
HANOVER TWP. — Frank Ciavarella stepped down as president of the Hanover Area School Board during a special meeting Wednesday, and the board voted to have former president John Mahle fill the post. Ciavarella did not resign from the board. “I guess the board had confidence in my experience,” Mahle said... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)
- 02-28-2019 **Blasting project on Carlisle Springs Road delayed**
A blasting project at the former IAC/Masland site has been delayed. Carlisle Borough announced the project was no longer scheduled to start on Monday, and that a rescheduled start date has not been set. The date will be announced when it's scheduled. Posted earlier on Cumberlink:... - [Carlisle Sentinel](#)
- 02-28-2019 **NEMF heads to bankruptcy court Friday**
New England Motor Freight is seeking permission to continue health benefits for employees through April 13. In a letter last week, Vincent Colistra, a senior managing director with Phoenix Management Services Inc., and chief restructuring officer for the company, gave an update on the proposed severance package detailed on Feb.... - [Lehigh Valley Times News](#)
- 02-28-2019 **L.I.R.R. Accident: How a Hazardous Rail Crossing Became a Deadly Crash Site**
It had long been considered a dangerous crossing, with more than 200 commuter trains barreling by every day, traveling up to 80 miles per hour — even as streams of cars waited to drive over the tracks. It was so troubling that it was one of seven hazardous crossings along a... - [New York Times](#)
- 02-28-2019 **G.M. Backs Rule to Curb Carbon-Monoxide Risk in Keyless Cars**
Forgetting to shut off a keyless vehicle has been a safety hazard for years, causing a growing number of carbon-monoxide deaths. But a proposed regulation to require warning signals and other precautions has languished in the face of opposition from the auto industry.... - [New York Times](#)
- 02-28-2019 **You lost another 20 minutes in traffic this week, AAA says**
A new survey finds that Americans spend about 20 minutes more behind the wheel every week than they did just five years ago. The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety's American Driving Survey says that Americans spend nearly an hour driving each day and travel almost 32... - [Washington Post](#)
- 02-28-2019 **Lanes on part of Route 283 East will shift starting March 13, PennDOT says**
An important highway connection between Harrisburg and Lancaster that carries nearly 56,000 vehicles a day will soon have new traffic patterns because of a major reconstruction project, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation said Wednesday. Weather permitting, a news release said, the eastbound Route 283 in... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)



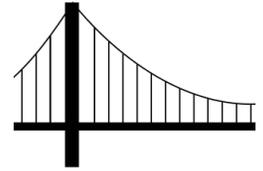
- 02-28-2019 **Lancaster weighs in: Should Lancaster city convert busy streets into 2-ways?**
A few weeks ago, we reported that the city will examine Lime, Orange and Church streets, as well as the one-way section of Duke Street to see if the change might make sense. The city opened Charlotte Street to two-way traffic in December, following the conversion of Mulberry Street in 2016.... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 02-28-2019 **Feds: 'Improperly installed' part probably caused 2017 Lancaster County explosion that killed 1**
Federal investigators have concluded that a 2017 natural gas explosion in Manor Township that killed a utility worker likely happened because of a part improperly installed in 1998, according to a final report released Wednesday. The National Transportation Safety Board report said it determined the... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 02-28-2019 **Expectations for traffic study vary**
LEWISBURG — Lewisburg Borough Council agreed at its last meeting to enter into an engineering agreement with Traffic Planning and Design of Pottstown for a Market Street Corridor Traffic Study. The council and private backers agreed that public safety, health and... - [Milton Standard](#)
- 02-28-2019 **Developer assembles land for McKees Rocks transportation center**
Developer assembles land for McKees Rocks transportation center A company that aims to redevelop a former brownfield in McKees Rocks into a shipping and transportation center said it has acquired the last two pieces of land needed for the project. Trinity Commercial Development of Emsworth said it closed in December on... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-28-2019 **A bridge to prosperity: Peduto says a link between hilltop neighborhoods, Hazelwood would spur development**
The city has lots of economic development tools at its disposal to help spur growth. But a bridge? Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto believes one literally could be a key in helping to revitalize hilltop neighborhoods like Allentown, Knoxville, Carrick, Arlington, Hays, and Beltzhoover south of the Monongahela River.... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-28-2019 **After being suspended for months, Atlantic City Rail Line reopening in May**
CHERRY HILL, N.J. (KYW Newsradio) — After being suspended for months and its future left unclear to commuters, New Jersey Transit's Atlantic City Rail Line finally gets a reopening date. Like most of the Atlantic City rail riders who came out to Wednesday's public meeting in Cherry Hill, James Mohollen wanted to know what's going... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)
- 02-28-2019 **Krasner charges truck driver in bicyclist's 2017 death**
PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner has made several charges against the driver of a recycling truck, involved in a fatal Center City bike accident. Jorge Fretts, 28, is charged with homicide by vehicle, involuntary manslaughter and recklessly endangering another person in the fatal... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)



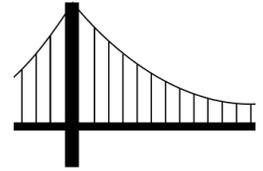
- 02-28-2019 **[Frustrated with Philly's blocked sidewalks? There's only 6 inspectors for the whole city](#)**
Members of the Streets Dept.'s Right of Way Unit have a pretty gargantuan task. A sidewalk closure caused by construction near 15th and Ranstead Michaela Winberg / Billy Penn When your day job includes slapping citations on Philly's active construction sites, you see some pretty memorable things. Just ask Fred... - [Philadelphia Billy Penn](#)
- 02-28-2019 **[Hyundai, Kia recall over 500K vehicles as fire risk spreads](#)**
Hyundai and Kia have added more than a half-million vehicles to 3½-year string of U.S. recalls for engine failures and fires... - [AP](#)
- 02-28-2019 **[Amtrak's new digital sign at 30th St. Station is up and running](#)**
A month after Amtrak removed the black-and-white, analog split-flap information board from 30th Street Station, the railroad moved into the digital age Thursday morning. After testing overnight, the railroad booted up its large new digital sign atop the information desk in the cavernous station at 3 a.m., well in... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 02-28-2019 **[Pennsylvania residents can start receiving REAL IDs beginning Friday](#)**
October 1, 2020 marks the date that every state resident will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license if they'd like to board domestic commercial flights or enter a federal or military building that requires an ID. For those who do not get a REAL ID, other forms of identification may be... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)
- 02-27-2019 **[Fire under T tracks will not impact morning commute, Port Authority says](#)**
Light rail service is operating normally Wednesday morning following a fire under a bridge in Pittsburgh, according to the Port Authority of Allegheny County. Tents used by homeless people and debris caught fire below the T tracks along Arlington Avenue around 2 a.m., the Trib's news partner, WPXI-TV,... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-27-2019 **[After push by Gov. Murphy, NJ Transit will give a date by week's end for Atlantic City rail line to resume service](#)**
Gov. Phil Murphy on Tuesday said he has instructed New Jersey Transit executive director Kevin Corbett to say this week — not “in three weeks,” as - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 02-27-2019 **[Millcreek supervisors ask for data on EMTA funding](#)**
Township will also look at request for signal on Perry Highway. Millcreek Township supervisors will look into a resident's request for a traffic signal and Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority's request for an increase in local matching funds from the township.... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 02-27-2019 **[Bieber Tourways accused of violating Americans with Disabilities Act](#)**
Bieber Tourways has been accused of operating outside the rules of the Americans with Disabilities Act for nearly 20 years, despite demands by the federal government to comply with the law. Now the government is in court seeking \$20,000 from the closed Kutztown-based bus company for owed fines and breach of contract.... - [Reading Eagle](#)



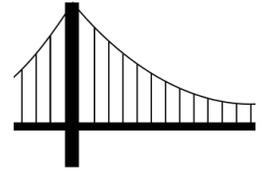
- 02-27-2019 **Scranton parking meters may get replaced by payment kiosks this year**
SCRANTON — The outside operators of the city’s parking system hope to replace street meters with payment kiosks this year. Robert “Bud” Sweet of the nonprofit National Development Council, which leased the city’s parking garages and meters in 2016 and oversees... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 02-27-2019 **Moscow police looking for Madison Twp. man they say crashed into parked car, nearly ran over officer**
After police found him unresponsive in his car following a crash, a Madison Twp. man nearly ran over an officer as he sped away, according to a criminal complaint. Bernard Francis Cegelka Jr., 26, jumped a curb in his BMW and T-boned a parked car around 7 p.m. Monday at Brook and Market streets in Moscow,... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 02-27-2019 **LCTA bus driver honored for helping resident in need**
SWOYERSVILLE — Andre Waters was driving his regular bus route when he saw something out of the ordinary. The Luzerne County Transportation Authority bus driver was heading into Swoyersville when he saw a man on the ground. Cars went by without stopping. Waters could tell the man was in distress. He parked his bus, went to his... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)
- 02-27-2019 **LCTA hears from student advisory council**
KINGSTON — If not for the Luzerne County Transportation Authority, Zoey Spak would need another way to get to class. The 21-year-old takes the bus every day from her Plains Twp. home to the main campus of Luzerne County Community College in Nanticoke, where she is... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)
- 02-27-2019 **LCTA bus driver honored for aiding Swoyersville man after fall**
KINGSTON — Andre Waters doesn’t think of himself as a hero. But the Luzerne County Transportation Authority employee’s quick thinking on a frigid day last month while going about his duties earned him some very public recognition and thanks — not to mention the key to a... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)
- 02-27-2019 **Pottsville’s road crews work to fill city’s potholes**
POTTSVILLE — Pottsville Superintendent of Streets Tom Whitaker knows the potholes are out there. “We go out everyday and search for potholes. I encourage people to report them,” Whitaker said. City residents can do that by calling the city garage at 570-622-7690 or... - [Pottsville Republican and Evening Herald](#)
- 02-27-2019 **Groundbreaking marks start of rail station in Pottstown's Memorial Park**
POTTSTOWN — The long-awaited station at the Pottstown end of the Colebrookdale Railroad will get underway this spring. The Colebrookdale Railroad Preservation Trust and its family of donors, sponsors, and friends, have announced the groundbreaking of the Pottstown... - [Pottstown Mercury](#)
- 02-27-2019 **\$5M office planned for Tunk Twp.**
The Wyoming County Planning Commission last Wednesday accepted a plan submission for BKV Operating LLC to build an office and warehouse facility in Tunkhannock Township. BKV acquired the Northeast Marcellus holdings of Warren Resources in 2017, and broke ground Jan. 14 on its newest land development in a roughly 5.5... - [Tunkhannock The New Age Examiner](#)



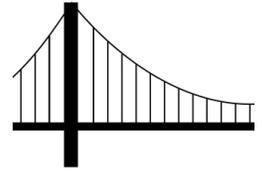
- 02-27-2019 **[Why that report ranking Pittsburgh among the nation's worst traffic may be wrong](#)**
Pittsburghers, like most Americans, hate traffic. And also like most Americans, drivers here seem convinced that their traffic is worse compared to other cities. So when a report comes out that validates those feelings, Pittsburghers eat it right up. That happened earlier this month when local TV stations and others... - [Pittsburgh City Paper](#)
- 02-27-2019 **[For years, the sidewalks along the 40th St. Bridge went unmaintained, so a bike courier decided to take on the responsibility herself](#)**
The 40th Street Bridge isn't the most iconic bridge in Pittsburgh, but in terms of shoddy sidewalks, trash, broken glass, and walkways that go without shoveling and salt every winter, it's in a league of its own. Or at least it used to be. Due to its unique location linking Pittsburgh to Millvale, the bridge's... - [Pittsburgh City Paper](#)
- 02-27-2019 **[Plan to widen sidewalks, move water, sewer lines has \\$5.8 million pricetag](#)**
Contractors began removing trees Tuesday from alongside West Fourth Street in Newberry between Route 15 and Arch Street. The project will widen sidewalks to five feet to make them compliant with the American with Disabilities Act, Heidi Lozano, project manager with the... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)
- 02-27-2019 **[Ohio lawmakers eye income tax changes as part of gas tax debate](#)**
Gov. Mike DeWine's proposal would raise the gas tax from 28 cents to 46 cents on July 1, with inflationary increases in future years...Senate president says no gas tax increase may be in transportation budget If Ohioans must pay more gas tax, some Ohio lawmakers also want to see a... - [Columbus Dispatch](#)
- 02-27-2019 **[Bicyclist and pedestrian deaths outpace traffic fatalities, report says](#)**
A recent report from the League of American Bicyclists says more pedestrians and bicyclists died in 2016 than at any time in the past 25 years. The group's 2018 Benchmarking Report — which was issued last month and flagged by Outside magazine — says pedestrian and bicyclist death... - [Washington Post](#)
- 02-27-2019 **[LOCAL HISTORY: Erie train disaster of 1869 at Mast Hope recalled](#)**
LACKAWAXEN TWP. - The hamlet of Mast Hope in the far northeastern corner of Pike County, Pa., was the scene of eight fatalities when two steam trains collided on a warm summer night in 1869. Eight passengers were killed. Engineer James (as he is referred to in this account),was indicted for... - [Hawley News Eagle](#)
- 02-27-2019 **[Parking reservation changes advance in Gettysburg](#)**
Changes in Gettysburg's parking rules, including elimination of retail businesses' ability to reserve metered spaces for loading and unloading, rolled closer to reality Monday. - [Gettysburg Times](#)
- 02-27-2019 **[Rapp session](#)**
It's been nearly two months since our representatives kicked off a new session in the General Assembly. What are they working on? All bills and resolutions – as well as memorandum's seeking co-sponsors – are available online at http: - [Warren Times Observer](#)
- 02-27-2019 **[Truck driver charged in 2017 death of Center City bicyclist](#)**
The truck driver who killed a pastry chef on a bicycle in Center City in 2017 has been charged. - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)



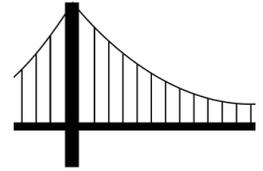
- 02-27-2019 **State bill to legalize e-scooters, just as City Council seeks regulation in Philly**
PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — A major step forward has been made in getting electric scooters legalized in Philadelphia. Lawmakers in Harrisburg introduced legislation Tuesday that would make them legal in the state for the first time. Coincidentally, Philadelphia City... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)
- 02-27-2019 **Auto tariff showdown: EU has strong incentives to reach a deal with U.S.**
If the European Union wants to avoid tariffs on automobile exports to the United States, it needs to ramp up talks with the U.S. President Donald Trump last week renewed the threat of tariffs as high as 25 percent because negotiations have been going nowhere fast. A tariff on... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-27-2019 **Route 283 lanes to shift as PennDOT prepares for more construction**
PennDOT will begin preparing Route 283 in March for work to continue in the area a reconstruction project. In March, a contractor will establish new eastbound traffic patterns through the Route 283 reconstruction project in southeastern Dauphin County, according to a news release.... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 02-27-2019 **Aurora co-founder says his self-driving company is mysterious for a reason. It's in no rush.**
It's pretty convenient to have forward collision warning tech in your car, warning you to slow down or, in some models, even applying the brakes automatically. Those systems have been shown to reduce collisions by about 40 percent, explained Sterling Anderson, co-founder and chief product officer at... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-27-2019 **SEPTA gives its bus network map an upgrade**
SEPTA's current transit map, the big picture depiction of all buses, subways, and trolleys in the city, shows a web of indistinguishable red lines twisting among city streets. This map, largely unchanged from ones used by the Philadelphia Transit Company in the 1940s, has long been criticized as both frustratingly... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 02-27-2019 **Scooter companies hope to be street legal in Pennsylvania by summer**
The pair of electric-powered scooters provided by the companies Bird and Lime, sitting incongruously in the center of Philadelphia's baroque City Council chambers, sent a clear message: the e-scooter lobby has rolled into Pennsylvania in force. "I had an opportunity through my good friend John Hawkins to ride one... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 02-27-2019 **Philadelphia, state considering electric scooters**
Philadelphia Councilmember Kenyatta Johnson (D-District 2) drops off his two young children at daycare before going to work. He sees fellow parents using different forms of transportation to unload their kids. "Probably half the parents I see bringing their children to school are... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)
- 02-26-2019 **Bike lanes, traffic improvements coming to Smallman Street in Pittsburgh's Strip**
Pittsburgh plans to add bike lanes along a five-block section of Smallman Street in the Strip District and install a public plaza as part of the Produce Terminal rehabilitation. The City and Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority are spending about \$23 million total on new water and sewer lines and the traffic improvements... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)



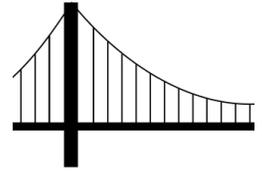
- 02-26-2019 **Port Authority ConnectCard recharging system to shut down 'a few days' next week**
Port Authority ConnectCard recharging system to shut down 'a few days' next week Port Authority will take a step next week to deal with one of its primary criticisms: the availability of prepaid ConnectCards. Pittsburghers for Public Transit launched its “Make our Fares Fair”... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-26-2019 **Traffic study to begin soon**
The consultant hired in the fall by PennDOT to examine traffic patterns downtown has submitted a “scope of work” proposal and should begin the yearlong study in March, according to officials from PennDOT and the Greater Altoona Economic Development Corp., a sister agency to the... - [Altoona Mirror](#)
- 02-26-2019 **City could restrict street parking**
In response to recent complaints, City Council may consider restrictions on-street parking for oversized vehicles. There have been concerns about aesthetics and the amount of space taken up by tractor-trailers, tractors without trailers, dump trucks, step vans,... - [Altoona Mirror](#)
- 02-26-2019 **Scranton council questions necessity of no-parking zone in front of proposed apartments**
SCRANTON — City council questions a state Department of Transportation requirement for a no-parking zone in front of a proposed apartment building next to Kildare’s Irish Pub. The city planning commission in September conditionally approved plans by BS Scranton LLC for a four- to five-story apartment building of 48... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 02-26-2019 **Central Scranton Expressway work to take a bit longer**
Drivers won’t have a roomier ride on the Central Scranton Expressway until fall, officials said. Not long after the Harrison Avenue Bridge project started in spring 2015, the expressway, which is normally two lanes inbound and two outbound, narrowed to a single lane in each direction.... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 02-26-2019 **Wabtec merger complete as strike threat hangs over Erie GE plant**
Because no agreement was reached between the union and Wabtec before the merger, union members become Wabtec employees Monday under the terms of most recent company proposals. The merger of GE Transportation and Westinghouse Air Brake Technologies Corp. is complete.... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 02-26-2019 **Voter registration deadline approaches for special election in South Hills, Peters**
Residents who plan to vote in the April 2 special election in the 37th State Senatorial District must be registered by Monday. Candidates are Democrat Pam Iovino and Republican D. Raja. Both are from Mt. Lebanon, and they are vying to replace Guy Reschenthaler, who is now... - [Washington Observer-Reporter](#)
- 02-26-2019 **Traffic signals in Midland to be synced by radar**
MIDLAND — A project to sync traffic signals along Route 68 is nearly complete, which could drastically impact how cars and trucks move through the borough. Midland has experienced an uptick of traffic in the last several years, especially truck traffic associated with the nearby Shell Chemicals cracker... - [Beaver County Times](#)



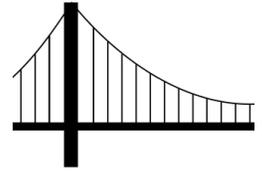
- 02-26-2019 **State College weather: high-speed wind gusts cause power outages, road closures, injury**
Wind gusts topping 50 mph blew through Centre County late Sunday into Monday, wreaking havoc on the region's power grid and leading to at least one injury. An 86-year-old Ferguson Township woman was trapped in a sunroom when a towering oak tree toppled onto her Breezewood Drive home and collapsed part... - [State College Centre Daily Times](#)
- 02-26-2019 **What-ifs cause concern for state's transportation**
Costly facts-of-life such as emergency repairs, regulatory compliance, inflation and more can be stressful nuisances. Pair those with changing legislation, litigation and other factors that could cost billions over the years, and there's a disaster in store.... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)
- 02-26-2019 **Jerry Shenk: Government shutdown-proof air traffic safety**
During the December/January partial government shutdown, the presidents of three air travel-related unions, the National Air Traffic Controllers Association, the Air Line Pilots Association and the Association of Flight Attendants, issued a joint statement declaring that America's "air... - [Phoenixville News](#)
- 02-26-2019 **Updated five-year North Penn bus contract gets OK**
LANSDALE — The North Penn School Board has locked in its transportation arrangements for the next five years. The board voted unanimously last week to approve an updated contract with First Student Transportation to handle certain bus runs for the district, without the opt-out the company chose to exercise last year.... - [Lansdale Reporter](#)
- 02-26-2019 **White and Pyle: Kittanning receives \$150,000 for facade, street improvements**
Kittanning Borough will receive state grants totaling \$150,000 for its facade improvement and street repaving efforts, according to Pennsylvania Sen. Don White (R-41) and state Rep. Jeff Pyle (R- 60). The borough will receive a much-anticipated \$50,000 facade improvement grant and an... - [Kittanning Leader-Times](#)
- 02-26-2019 **Residents question traffic plan for proposed 75-acre Oregon Village development**
A traffic expert Monday night defended new roads, traffic signals and other possible highway improvements totaling \$6.2 million as residents raised questions about the proposed 75-acre Oregon Village development. "My opinion is our proposal is a safer, more efficient design,"... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 02-26-2019 **Sherrod Brown assails Donald Trump's false claim on new auto plants in Ohio**
WASHINGTON – Sen. Sherrod Brown said President Donald Trump's claim Monday that automotive companies are opening up new plants in Ohio is "a slap in the face" to 1,600 workers in northeast Ohio losing their jobs next month with the closure of General Motors' Lordstown... - [Columbus Dispatch](#)
- 02-26-2019 **Opposition mounting toward double-stack trains through North Side**
A grass-roots group that opposes Norfolk Southern's plans to create a second route for double-stack freight cars wants to stop the project in its tracks. Rail Pollution Protection Pittsburgh presented a multifaceted call to action Monday aimed at slowing the \$20 million project that calls for... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)



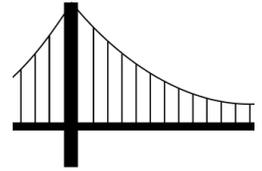
- 02-26-2019 **Port Authority ConnectCard recharging system to shut down 'a few days' next week**
Port Authority will take a step next week to deal with one of its primary criticisms: the availability of prepaid ConnectCards. Pittsburghers for Public Transit launched its “Make our Fares Fair” campaign in November to lobby the authority to make cash fares equal to the... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-26-2019 **We need Gov. Wolf’s Restore Pennsylvania plan to fix infrastructure | Opinion**
Most of us take infrastructure for granted in our daily lives — the systems that deliver clean water to our taps, prevent our neighborhoods from flooding, and process our trash once it’s picked up from the curb. This year, Gov. Wolf has proposed a four-year, \$4.5 billion plan called... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 02-26-2019 **United Auto Workers sues GM to stop 3 plant closings, including Lordstown**
The United Auto Workers has sued General Motors in federal court to stop the closing of plants in Ohio, Michigan and Maryland, claiming the company is forbidden from idling plants under its current contract... - [AP](#)
- 02-25-2019 **Backlog of REAL ID applications hits Pennsylvania**
The first wave of Real ID seekers produced a backlog of more than 30,000 unprocessed PennDOT applications, raising concerns about wait times for the new identification cards people will need to get on an airplane next year. In the past two weeks, the logjam has been reduced to 14,000 pending online... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-25-2019 **Thousands lose power in Westmoreland as high winds rip through area**
As wind ripped through the region Sunday, thousands in Westmoreland County dealt with downed trees and power lines and closed roads. The National Weather Service reported winds as high as 60 mph at Arnold Palmer Regional Airport near Latrobe and 53 mph near Pittsburgh... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-25-2019 **Back to basics: No more team slogans on Port Authority bus banners**
Don’t misunderstand: Port Authority CEO Katharine Eagan Kelleman attended her first Pittsburgh news conference wearing a black-and-gold scarf, and her personal vehicle still is adorned with Steelers gear, so she hasn’t lost her hometown pride. But as head of Allegheny County’s transit agency, she has heard too... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-25-2019 **ISC receives \$334,000 Growing Greener grant**
The Intergovernmental Stormwater Committee has received a \$334,000 grant from the state Department of Environmental Protection’s Growing Greener program for work along Brush Run in the vicinity of Lakemont Park. The grant will go for “green infrastructure” projects and possibly... - [Altoona Mirror](#)
- 02-25-2019 **Borough reviews parking permits**
HOLLIDAYSBURG — Mayor Joe Dodson said if the Borough Council approves a parking measure that would take away street parking permits from residents, he would veto it. “I will not sign the ordinance. Seems like we are always beating up on people here in this town,” Dodson said. “It’s ridiculous.”... - [Altoona Mirror](#)



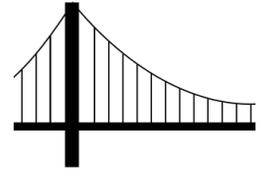
- 02-25-2019 **Scranton council questions necessity of no-parking zone in front of proposed apartments**
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- 02-25-2019 **Central Scranton Expressway work to take a bit longer**
Drivers won't have a roomier ride on the Central Scranton Expressway until fall, officials said. Not long after the Harrison Avenue Bridge project started in spring 2015, the expressway, which is normally two lanes inbound and two outbound, narrowed to a single lane in each direction.... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 02-25-2019 **Howling winds cause minor problems**
SHARON — A series of loud bangs and a brief, brilliant blue-white sky show just before 8 p.m. Sunday interrupted the howling winds, rattling street signs and blowing leaves in downtown Sharon. The apparent cause was arcing power lines caused by a scrap of protective... - [Sharon Herald](#)
- 02-25-2019 **Greenville could be next in line for a new roundabout**
GREENVILLE – An intersection close to Thiel College could be made into a roundabout. PennDOT is considering two options to make safer the intersection where Greenville-Sharon Road (or state Route 18) meets Mercer Road (or state Route 58) adjacent to Thiel College in the borough.... - [Sharon Herald](#)
- 02-25-2019 **Parking enforcement officers hit beat this week**
There's a new parking enforcement officer in town and, while the announcement does not have quite the same punch as word of a new sheriff arriving in at unruly crossroads in the old west, Meadville officials hope to see an impact on both scofflaws and city coffers.... - [Meadville Tribune](#)
- 02-25-2019 **Route 220 safety corridor project: Costly, necessary**
The latest Route 220 safety corridor project is coming sooner than later, with work due to begin in the fall. It will be expensive, with an estimated cost of \$36 million. And it will be a lengthy exercise, taking about three years to complete. It also is necessary.... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)
- 02-25-2019 **Several Lancaster County school districts extend school year after exhausting snow makeup days**
Those snow days don't seem so fun anymore, do they? Recent school closures across Lancaster County have forced school districts to chip away at holiday breaks and, in some cases, extend the school year. The long President's Day weekend was cut short for most county... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 02-25-2019 **Eby dives into Perry County commissioners' election**
Republican Gary Eby of New Bloomfield, the former director of the Perry County Transportation Authority (PCTA), will run for county commissioner in this year's election. Eby, 68, joins a growing list of people seeking a spot on the three-member board of commissioners, bringing with him prior service in the county as... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)



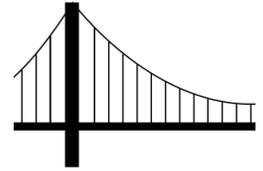
- 02-25-2019 **[Continue the fight for transit equity, started by Octavius Catto and Rosa Parks | Opinion](#)**
The woman best known for refusing to give up her seat was not afraid to take a stand. On Dec. 1, 1955, Rosa Parks stayed seated when a Montgomery City Lines bus driver ordered her to surrender her seat in the “colored section” to white passengers after the “whites-only” section was full. Her... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 02-25-2019 **[Continue the fight for transit equity, started by Octavius Catto and Rosa Parks | Opinion](#)**
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- 02-25-2019 **[Gasoline prices see biggest jump of 2019 as oil prices continue to rise](#)**
Gas prices in Pittsburgh have gone up 4.6 cents per gallon in the past week to an average of \$2.62, according to GasBuddy. The national average has also gone up, by 6.1 cents per gallon, to \$2.39. “Gasoline prices saw their biggest weekly jump of 2019 with the... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-25-2019 **[Driverless vehicles the subject of tech talk in Pittsburgh](#)**
An engineering association will hold its first meetup Tuesday for a discussion with industry leaders on self-driving vehicles. Scheduled speakers include Sterling Anderson, Aurora Innovation co-founder, and Tara Andringa, coalition manager for Partners for Automated Vehicle... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-25-2019 **[‘I’m so excited about this’ — SEPTA’s newest bus route connects University City](#)**
Riding SEPTA’s newest bus route on its first Monday felt like getting to a party, finding the room empty, and fearing no one else was going to show. Inquirer photographer Margo Reed and I were the only people to board the Route 49 bus at a desolate corner in Point Breeze alongside the Schuylkill... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 02-24-2019 **[Smile: Some airliners have cameras on seat-back screens](#)**
Now there is one more place where cameras could start watching you — from 30,000 feet... - [AP](#)
- 02-24-2019 **[Editorial: Is a new PIT terminal a \\$1 billion bargain?](#)**
The designs for a new Pittsburgh International Airport terminal are beautiful. They are filled with light pouring in through huge windows. There are ceilings high enough to park an airliner in the concourse. There is enough greenery to give you the feeling you are visiting Phipps Conservatory and... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-24-2019 **[Work to extend Tredway Trail in Allegheny Township set to start in late April](#)**
Work on a 1.5-mile extension of the Tredway recreational trail in Allegheny Township is expected to start at the end of April and be completed in August. PennDOT has awarded the \$245,000 contract to A. Folino Construction, Inc., which submitted the lowest bid.... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-24-2019 **[Sheriff: No likely survivors in cargo plane crash near Houston](#)**
A Boeing 767 cargo jetliner heading to Houston with three people aboard disintegrated after crashing Saturday into a bay east of the city, according to a Texas sheriff... - [AP](#)



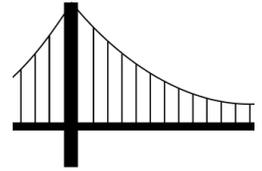
- 02-24-2019 **Bob Lesh collected nomination petition signatures for O'Malley at COLTS offices**
Bob Lesh, a manager at the County of Lackawanna Transit System, violated policy when he circulated a nomination petition for Commissioner Patrick O'Malley, the agency's executive director said. Lesh, who also serves as a Scranton school director, said he collected... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 02-24-2019 **Letters to the Editor 2/23/2019**
Editor: I just wanted to say what a great job PennDOT does keeping our roads clear of snow and ice. We live in Northeast Pennsylvania and as we all know we have a ton of bad weather to drive in. They really do an excellent job keeping our roads safe for all of us. I do... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 02-24-2019 **Erie-area legislators talk property tax, voter reform**
Friday's Legislative Luncheon was sponsored by the Erie County chapter of the League of Women Voters. The city of Erie is making progress but the looming fiscal deficit will force Mayor Joe Schember and Erie City Council to make difficult decisions, state Sen. Dan Laughlin said Friday during a legislative panel discussion.... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 02-24-2019 **March madness fast approaching on Berks roads**
The soundtrack of the season is about to change with the flip of the calendar next week. The groans and/or cheers over impending snowstorms and school cancellations will almost overnight give way to the pings of metal baseball bats, the clap of baseballs hitting leather and the nonstop banter about the March... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 02-24-2019 **Mack is hiring for a mysterious project in Virginia. Could it be a new truck line?**
Mack Trucks, one of the Lehigh Valley's largest employers, has a secret in the mountainous area of Southwest Virginia. The mystery starts with a few job listings posted earlier this month by Volvo Group, the Sweden-based parent company of Mack, for engineering... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 02-24-2019 **Survey: Lehigh Valley residents agree on something. Getting around's getting harder**
If you've ever complained about sitting in a traffic jam on Route 22 or relying on public transportation to take you around the Lehigh Valley, you're not alone. The latest Lehigh Valley Quality of Life poll shows the majority of residents rate life, the economy and housing as positive. But almost half... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 02-24-2019 **What does it take to keep kids safe on N.J. school buses? | Editorial**
A fatal school bus crash that killed a North Jersey student and a teacher last year led to several New Jersey reform laws concerning buses and especially drivers, but is anyone paying attention to the new standards? In the Interstate Route 80 crash, a bus full of Paramus middle school... - [Trenton Times](#)
- 02-24-2019 **The Green New Deal Is Better Than Our Climate Nightmare**
It's hard to believe, but worth recalling, that during the presidential debates in 2016, not a single question about climate change was put to Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump. That, of course, was before a plague of hurricanes, droughts and savage forest fires in California and around the... - [New York Times](#)



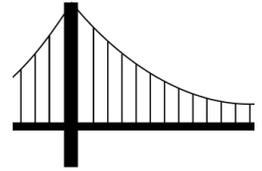
- 02-22-2019 **Paul Muschick: A year after trucker's death, is Lehigh Tunnel safer?**
You don't appreciate the enormity of the Lehigh Tunnel on the Pennsylvania Turnpike until you are standing just outside the entrance, at the base of the Kittatinny Mountain. The tunnel swallows 30,000 cars and trucks a day that zip into tight, darkened quarters where there is little room for error. Drivers are... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 02-22-2019 **Pittsburgh objects to Norfolk Southern plans to raise bridges for double stack trains**
Norfolk Southern is seeking PUC permission to raze the bridge at Brighton Road and North Avenue and build a new one with 22-foot clearance. The railroad runs double-stacked trains through an alternative, longer route paralleling the Ohio and Monongahela Rivers. It wants to use a... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-22-2019 **Kline Twp. supervisors want safer walk/bike path**
People like to walk Kelayres Road between the Kline Township village and McAdoo. Since the Kelayres Playground closed in 2018, children are now riding their bikes to the McAdoo Playground, which is part of McAdoo's recreation complex that includes the Little League field and other play areas.... - [Pottsville Republican and Evening Herald](#)
- 02-22-2019 **WB council hears from residents upset about series of drive-by shootings**
WILKES-BARRE — As angry as residents are about shots ringing out in their neighborhoods, so too are the officers patrolling the streets, said city police chief Joseph Coffay. The almost daily drive-by shootings in the past week dominated the discussion during the city council meeting Thursday night that Coffay... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)
- 02-22-2019 **Angry and scared: W-B council hears from residents on shootings**
WILKES-BARRE — Several residents expressed their fears and concerns about the spate of recent shootings in the city and asked for more action during a council meeting Thursday. "I am angry and I am scared," Linda Joseph, president of the Rolling Mill Hill Residents Association, told council.... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)
- 02-22-2019 **Rising rates at the Reading Regional Airport anger some tenants**
The cost of doing business at the Reading Regional Airport is getting expensive. At least that's the opinion of two tenants who recently negotiated new leases with the Reading Regional Airport Authority. The tenants, James Dastra of Atlantic Coast Aircraft Services and Russ... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 02-22-2019 **Johnstown man faces vehicular homicide charge**
BEDFORD — A Johnstown man is in jail for killing a woman when he allegedly recklessly drove on the wrong side of a state road in January 2018, according to police. Ryan Joseph Karns, 35, of 823 Cypress Ave., faces charges of homicide by vehicle, endangering the welfare of children, multiple counts of recklessly... - [Altoona Mirror](#)



- 02-22-2019 **[Irrked by heavy truck traffic downtown, Lewisburg council hires firm to propose remedies](#)**
LEWISBURG — Borough council hired an engineering firm to complete a traffic study surveying the effects of heavy truck traffic in the downtown business district. Council members voted 8-0 to contract with Traffic Planning and Design, Harrisburg, at a cost of \$69,650. A citizen-led steering committee raised... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)
- 02-22-2019 **[Bus accident sparks concern among parents](#)**
Several students suffered minor injuries in a Shamokin Area School bus accident Thursday morning, according to students' parents. Parents are questioning district officials on how they handled the accident that occurred prior to school Thursday. The start of school was delayed... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)
- 02-22-2019 **[Railroad services firm heading to Alta Vista](#)**
A rail-related company is now making tracks for Alta Vista Business Park. Frontier Railroad Services LLC has purchased a 4.6-acre lot, according to a news release issued Thursday by Mon Valley Alliance, the nonprofit owner of the 256-acre park in Fallowfield Township. Frontier is a regional railroad... - [Washington Observer-Reporter](#)
- 02-22-2019 **[Belle Vernon getting ready for major road repaving project](#)**
BELLE VERNON – Help is on the way for Belle Vernon's crumbling infrastructure. Mayor Gerald Jackson said the borough is gearing up for a comprehensive road paving project this summer – the first major overhaul of Belle Vernon's roads in more than 20 years. “Depending on what we're able to get from financing, we will repave... - [Washington Observer-Reporter](#)
- 02-22-2019 **[Columbia Gas plans pipeline project in Washington, Greene counties](#)**
Columbia Gas plans to begin pipeline replacement projects in Washington and North Franklin Township in Washington County and Morris Township in Greene County. The company will replace more than 9,355 feet of underground pipe along Biltmore Drive, Broadview Place, Cario Drive, Dewey Avenue, Fairfield... - [Washington Observer-Reporter](#)
- 02-22-2019 **[County to assist on local bridge projects](#)**
LEWISTOWN — The Mifflin County Commissioners on Thursday approved a new partnership between the county and local municipalities that may have upcoming bridge improvement projects. Commissioner Rob Postal explained the project will reduce costs to municipalities to only 10 percent of any project costs with the rest being... - [Lewistown Sentinel](#)
- 02-22-2019 **[Airport authority looks to develop zoning overlay](#)**
As the Fayette County Airport Authority is moving ahead with improvements to the Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS), taxiway and runway extensions, it's also looking to take on a new project. Former Fayette County Commissioner and local businessman Al Ambrosini commented at this... - [Connellsville Daily Courier](#)
- 02-22-2019 **[Ford Is Investigating Emissions and Fuel Efficiency Data](#)**
Ford Motor Company said on Thursday that it was investigating how it tested the emissions and fuel efficiency of its vehicles after employees reported possible flaws with the company's computer models. The company said it had notified the Environmental Protection Agency about... - [New York Times](#)



- 02-22-2019 **Trump Administration, Getting Set for a Major Rollback, Ends Clean Air Talks With California**
WASHINGTON — The Trump administration, setting the stage to move forward with one of its most consequential climate-policy rollbacks, announced Thursday that it had decided to scrap negotiations with California over the president’s plan to undo Obama-era fuel efficiency... - [New York Times](#)
- 02-22-2019 **A Green New Deal Is Technologically Possible. Its Political Prospects Are Another Question.**
WASHINGTON — President Trump derided the Green New Deal as a “high school term paper that got a low mark.” Congressional Republicans mocked it as “zany.” Even Nancy Pelosi, the Democratic House speaker, called the proposal a “green dream,” and some of the party’s 2020 candidates are starting to describe it as merely... - [New York Times](#)
- 02-22-2019 **New York Says It Will Crack Down on City Workers Abusing Parking Privileges**
The traffic choking New York City streets has brought new congestion fees on taxis and Ubers and rallied support around a broader congestion pricing plan to charge all cars and trucks entering the busiest neighborhoods. Now city officials are ratcheting up the fight against another traffic... - [New York Times](#)
- 02-22-2019 **Landslide closes section of Freeport Road in Springdale Township**
A section of Freeport Road in Springdale Township was closed Friday morning because of a landslide. PennDOT spokesman Steve Cowan said the slide closed the road between the New Kensington Bridge and Riddle Run Road. Freeport Road is a state road. I haven’t seen any photos or talked to anyone on scene yet, but they... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-22-2019 **Troopers seize 510 pounds of marijuana on Pennsylvania Turnpike**
State police on Thursday seized 510 pounds of what they suspect to be marijuana from a box truck traveling on the Pennsylvania Turnpike, according to court papers. Mark Joseph Doyle, 63, of Oregon is being held in the Westmoreland County Prison without bail. Troopers stopped the truck in Mt. Pleasant Township at 3 p.m. after it was... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-22-2019 **Port Authority CEO Katharine Kelleman will receive more than \$21,000 in bonuses for her 1st year**
Port Authority CEO Katharine Kelleman will receive more than \$21,000 in bonuses for her 1st year The Port Authority board Friday approved bonuses of \$21,551 for CEO Katharine Eagan Kelleman. The bonuses are just under the maximum of 10 percent included in the... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-22-2019 **Port Authority CEO Katharine Kelleman will receive more than \$21,000 in bonuses for her 1st year**
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02-22-2019

Landslide closes section of Freeport Road in Springdale Township

A section of Freeport Road in Springdale Township closed Friday because of a landslide could potentially stay shut down until Monday as officials worry more debris could fall. PennDOT spokesman Steve Cowan said the slide, reported to PennDOT about 7 a.m., closed Freeport Road between the New Kensington Bridge and Riddle Run... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

02-22-2019

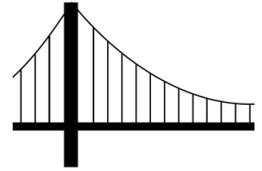
Fox Chapel trails ready for spring despite heavy flood damage in 2018

Fox Chapel walking trails will be open in time for spring hikes despite sustaining major damage during the 2018 summer floods, officials announced Friday. "We sustained a tremendous amount of damage during the July floods and continued rainy weather," Mayor Alex Scott said. "I want to thank... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

02-22-2019

Roads closing Feb. 25 for 45-day project to replace West View's Martsof Bridge

Starting Monday, a stretch of Center Avenue in West View will be shut for about 45 days while a deteriorating bridge is replaced, borough officials announced. Center Avenue will be closed between Frankfort and Park avenues while contractors demolish and replace the Martsof Avenue Bridge. In addition to... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)



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 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, Andrew, Shaun, and Justin.

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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