



December 7-13, 2018

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**SESSION STATUS**

At 12:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 1, 2018 the Senate and House stand adjourned sine die. Neither chamber is expected to return before January 1.

**UPCOMING SESSION DAYS**

**House**

Jan. 1, 15, 16, 28, 29, 30  
 Feb. 4, 5, 6, 19, 20, 21  
 Mar. 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27  
 April 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 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**

Jan. 1, 15, 16, 28, 29, 30  
 Feb. 4, 5, 6  
 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

**WEEKLY TRANSPORTATION RECAP**

**Around the Rotunda**

**SECRETARY OF THE BUDGET PRESENTS MID-YEAR BUDGET BRIEFING AND ANNOUNCES NEW SECRETARY**

By Jessica Richardson, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | December 11, 2018

Secretary of the Budget Randy Albright held a [mid-year budget briefing](#) in the Governor’s Reception Room and at the end of the briefing announced he will be stepping down.

Sec. Albright highlighted that there has been significant budget progress over the course of Gov. Wolf’s first term. He said the state was able to end last year’s budget with \$7 million above what was spent last year. Sec. Albright noted this allowed the administration to make a substantive transfer into the state’s Rainy Day Fund. He thanked all the cabinet secretaries as the agencies went to extraordinary levels to hold in the reins of complement increases.

Sec. Albright continued by saying that the current revenue collections have been very positive. He stated the tax revenue growth in the prior fiscal year was \$1.25 billion, and the fiscal year-to-date tax collections are \$913 million above the prior year. Sec. Albright noted there has been a significant increase in the revenue from collections of Corporate Net Income (CNI) Tax as it is 32.8 percent higher. He added Personal Income Tax withholding is 3.5 percent higher and sales tax is 8.9 percent higher. He said that in the first five months of the fiscal year there has been a total tax revenue of \$265 million, which is above estimates.

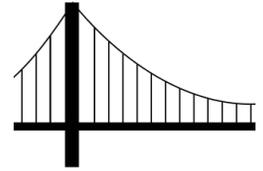
Next, he explained potential supplemental needs. Sec. Albright explained that for the Department of Human Services, this is the second year of managed care organizations (MCOs) oversight and the plan is to now bring the oversight to the entire long-term care system. He said this will provide additional tools, but currently the state is stuck paying for entitlement spending and waiver programs. In addition, Sec. Albright said, the Department of Corrections has seen a decline in population, but there has been an increase in overtime costs due to the institution lockdowns.

In total, while supplemental needs are significant, the Budget Office believes it will be less than the revenue surplus, Sec. Albright said. He stated he is confident the fiscal year will end with a balanced budget and a modest surplus that will allow for a contribution into the Rainy Day Fund.

Sec. Albright went into detail about investments Gov. Wolf made over the course of his first term. He said there has been historic investment in education classroom aid, with nearly \$1.1 billion over four years. Sec. Albright stated the pension contributions took a big bite out of the total expenditures and General Fund budget, but now they are fully funding actuarially required contributions. He noted the increase has leveled off and will no longer account for a major part of the General Fund growth in expenditures.

He continued that Gov. Wolf has helped combat the heroin and opioid abuse epidemic by increasing access to Naloxone, expanding specialty drug courts, and continuing to fund 45 Centers of Excellence. Sec. Albright said they also provided services to 6,800 additional children on the child care waiting list, and served 7,900 additional individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism in the community. In addition, Medicaid expansion





reduced the uninsured from 14 percent to 5.5 percent and decreased the annual costs by \$700 million, Sec. Albright said.

Sec. Albright added that with gaming expansion, the Budget Office believes collections will grow from \$160 million to more than \$300 million. He stated investments in jobs have been a priority and eliminating the Capital Stock and Franchise Tax has helped with that, along with programs such as Manufacturing Pennsylvania, permitting reform, One-Stop Shop for Business, the Middle Class Task Force, and PAsmart Initiative. He noted there has been a net job growth of 247,500 since January 2015.

Looking toward the upcoming years, Sec. Albright stated the GDP 4.7 percent growth will continue into 2019 and only moderately decrease in 2020. He said he does not see inflation pressures and personal income will remain strong. Sec. Albright commented the state is already in a period of unprecedented sustainable economic growth, but history says that cannot go on forever. He predicts that the forecast is far enough out that it will not directly impact the current year or one after.

Sec. Albright presented some 2019-2020 spending concerns that include: higher federal matching rates for human services costs, labor contract expiration, uncertainty with the Turnpike payments for transit programs because of pending litigation, shifting scholarship costs to the General Fund with Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) reserves diminishing, and a Motor License Fund cap on State Police spending.

According to Sec. Albright, second-term budget priorities are as follows:

- Education progress through sustained investment.
- Implement Ready to Start Task Force recommendations to address health, human services, and education policy for infants and toddlers.
- Create a fairer, more competitive business tax climate.
- Reduce or restrain state spending to balance budgets and build Rainy Day Fund reserves.

Gov. Wolf commented Sec. Albright is going to be moving on and Department of Human Services Fiscal Management Director Jen Swails will be taking over as secretary of the Budget. He said he is looking forward to working with Swails in the second term and appreciates what Sec. Albright has done.

Swails stated she is honored Sec. Albright and Gov. Wolf look to her to take on the very important role and she looks forward to working with everyone in the administration and general assembly.

Sec. Albright thanked Gov. Wolf and everyone in the Budget Office.

Questions were taken from the media.

#### **How much funding will be needed for supplemental funding?**

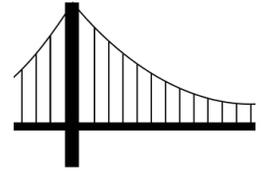
Sec. Albright replied they are still working through it, but projects that it will be less than the additional revenue surplus. He is confident there will be a balanced budget and surplus. He said he does not think the state faces a \$1.5 billion deficit for the proposed budget year.

#### **Do you agree with the Independent Fiscal Office's (IFO) projections?**

Sec. Albright stated the Budget Office's forecast for the current fiscal year is more optimistic. He said the IFO did a fair job in looking toward the upcoming years and pointing out that the state has gotten its arms around the actuarial required pension contributions.

#### **Why is the Turnpike unable to go to the bond market to get the payment?**

Sec. Albright responded it is due to a pending lawsuit, but the Budget Office will work with the Turnpike to fully fund those obligations.



**Are you fully bringing back the Cash Grant Program?**

Sec. Albright explained the Supreme Court invalidated the 2012 law that ended the Cash Grant Program so it is the administration’s obligation going forward. He said that in the past, spending for the program was \$150 million annually, but he predicts the cost will be less than \$25 million for the current fiscal year.

**Why is there a growth in human services costs?**

Sec. Albright stated it is due to an aging population and it is crucial for the administration to bring the same managed care oversight to the long-term care system. He said the Budget Office does its best to forecast the growth.

**Will there be any other changes such as a severance tax?**

Sec. Albright replied Gov. Wolf has made it clear that there should be a severance tax, but he leaves it to Gov. Wolf to announce that and any other budget proposals.

**Can you elaborate on the fair business tax climate?**

Sec. Albright said Gov. Wolf believes the CNI tax should be lowered. He said they will work with local business groups, the General Assembly, and stakeholders to find a means to create a more competitive business climate and reduce CNI.

**What extent has the Supreme Court had on the sales tax benefits?**

Sec. Albright explained he thinks taxing digital downloads and clarifying the state’s legal authority to collect those taxes combined to create the significant uptick. He said half of it is normal economic growth and half of it is due to those additional steps.

###

**Committee News**

No Committee News this week.

**Bullet.in.Points**

**[PENNDOT: STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING](#)**

The Department of Transportation announced a meeting of the State Transportation Commission for December 20, 2018, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Keystone Building, Harrisburg. For more information, contact the commission at (717) 783-2262 or [RA-PennDOTSTC@pa.gov](mailto:RA-PennDOTSTC@pa.gov).

**Cosponsor Memos**

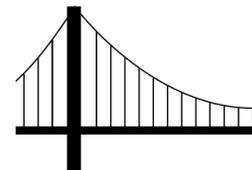
HCO 163	Ciresi, Joseph (F)(D)	Requires the Department of Transportation to plant vegetation native to Pennsylvania along state highways.
HCO 172	Snyder, Pam(D)	Creates a new Child with Autism specialty license plate to alert police officers and first responders that an autistic child may be on board the vehicle.
HCO 177	Pickett, Tina(R)	Holds passengers traveling in a vehicle involved in a hit and run as legally responsible for reporting the accident to authorities.
HCO 178	Metzgar, Carl(R)	Designates a portion of State Route 2016 in Rockwood Borough, Somerset County as the PFC Alton Glenn Sterner Memorial Bridge.



HCO 198	Simmons, Justin(R)	Requires school districts to provide a link to the Megan's Law website on the district homepage and any communication concerning school transportation.
HCO 199	Simmons, Justin(R)	Provides the necessary legal backing for the enforcement of parking spaces reserved for expectant mothers and parents of small children.
HCO 205	Simmons, Justin(R)	Allows those who have a direct spirits shipper license to ship spirits to a resident of legal age for the resident's personal use and not for resale.
HCO 209	Rader, Jack(R)	Requires automobile insurers to notify PennDOT and any lienholder or lessor when an insured switches to a new insurance company.
HCO 212	Rothman, Greg(R)	Establishes a six-year pilot program for accredited municipal and regional police to use radar as a speed timing device in the commonwealth.
HCO 213	Neilson, Ed(D)	Requires the General Assembly's approval before any existing and free roadway can be converted into a toll road.
HCO 223	Diamond, Russ(R)	Provides drivers with 30 days after expiration of vehicle registration, inspection stickers, or driver's license to address the issue and avoid fines.
SCO 169	Yaw, Gene(R)	Creates the Pennsylvania Keystone Tree Fund as a voluntary checkoff box to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's driver's license application (original and renewal) and the vehicle registration renewal application.
SCO 171	Yaw, Gene(R)	Creates a duty of passengers in a vehicle to render aid to any person injured in an accident.
SCO 175	Stefano, Patrick(R)	Provides a reduction in fees for military veterans acquiring license plate registration.
SCO 179	Stefano, Patrick(R)	Eliminates the disparity in access standard for substance abuse center services between urban and rural areas.
SCO 186	Argall, David(R)	Requires contracted household goods movers carriers to reside in PA to operate in PA.
SCO 192	Stefano, Patrick(R)	Expands Automobile Lemon Law to include municipal road construction and maintenance equipment.
SCO 211	Sabatina, John(D)	Waives duplicate license fee charges for veterans distinction driver's licenses.
SCO 214	Sabatina, John(D)	Allows car dealerships to be open on Sundays.
SCO 232	Killion, Thomas(R)	Centralizes pipeline safety inspection within the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and requires interstate agents in pipeline inspection.

### **Bill Actions**

No Bill Actions this week.



## Upcoming Events

### **PA Turnpike Commission \*\*Rescheduled from 12/18/18\*\***

*December 17, 2018 - 10:00 a.m., Turnpike Admin. Bldg, Large Board Room, 700 S. Eisenhower Blvd., 3rd Fl., Middletown*  
Commission Meeting. For additional information: (717) 831-7333

### **PA State Transportation Commission**

*December 20, 2018 - 10:00 a.m., Commonwealth Keystone Building, Room 8N1, 400 North Street, Harrisburg*  
Commission Meeting. For additional information: (717) 787-2913

### **PA Public Utility Commission**

*December 20, 2018 - 10:00 a.m., Commonwealth Keystone Building, Hearing Room 1, 400 North St., Harrisburg*  
Public Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-1740

### **Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority (SEPTA) Board**

*December 20, 2018 - 3:00 p.m., SEPTA Headquarters, 1234 Market Street, Mezzanine Level, Philadelphia*  
Board Meeting. For additional information: (215) 580-7800

### **PA Turnpike Commission**

*January 2, 2019 - 10:00 a.m., Turnpike Admin. Bldg, Large Board Room, 700 S. Eisenhower Blvd., 3rd Fl., Middletown*  
Commission Meeting. For additional information: (717) 831-7333

### **House Appropriations**

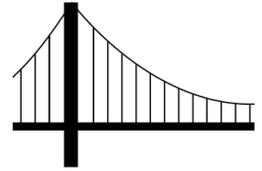
*February 26, 2019 - 1:00 p.m., Room 140, Main Capitol*  
Budget Hearing - Department of Transportation

### **House Appropriations**

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

## In the News

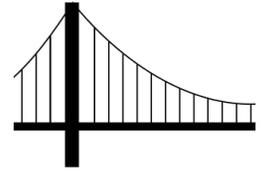
- 12-13-2018      [AG DePasquale Urges Port Authority to Improve Route Management to Better...](#)  
(Press Release)
- 12-13-2018      [Acid mine drainage must be dealt with along Southern Beltway](#)  
Building the next section of the Southern Beltway will involve a challenge the Pennsylvania Turnpike doesn't often deal with: acid mine drainage. Officials told residents that acid mine drainage near the construction of two curved bridges over Noblestown Road in Robinson Township, Washington... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 12-13-2018      [Colin McNickle: WOW & other astonishing Airport Authority 'deals'](#)  
Will the Allegheny County Airport Authority learn from its embarrassing 2018 failures to command the air-services marketplace at Pittsburgh International Airport (PIT)? Or will past be prologue in 2019? Those are among the serious questions posed by Frank Gamrat, executive... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)



- 12-13-2018 **Talking about walking in Scranton**  
SCRANTON — The city can start making the downtown more walkable and pedestrian-friendly by taking small steps, an urban-design expert said in a lecture Wednesday at the University of Scranton. Jeff Speck, a city planner, consultant and author of the 2012 book... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 12-13-2018 **Cognetti resigns from Scranton School Board to work for state auditor general**  
OLYPHANT — Paige Gebhardt Cognetti pushed for the Scranton School District to re-evaluate its transportation contract and took over as the school board's budget chairwoman after only three weeks on the board. On Wednesday, after a year as a school director, she resigned from the... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 12-13-2018 **Berks seeks new criteria for farmland preservation easements**  
Travel through rural Berks County and you can see the family farms that cover the landscape, patchworks of fertile fields, barns and silos. Berks is seventh in the nation, and third in Pennsylvania, in preserving its farmland through a 30-year-old statewide program of purchasing... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 12-13-2018 **Perry Township ordinance targets construction noise**  
The Perry Township supervisors on Tuesday unanimously passed a construction activity ordinance that prohibits construction noise from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. Construction activity is defined in the ordinance as creating or altering a structure. Township Solicitor Allen R. Shollenberger said that residents had asked the... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 12-13-2018 **Leesport potholes remain serious problem**  
Potholes in the 200 block of North Centre Avenue pose a serious traffic hazard, according to Leesport Mayor Granville Sandridge. At Wednesday's borough council meeting, Sandridge said that southbound drivers must swerve to avoid two large potholes, creating unsafe... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 12-13-2018 **Incoming business asks for waiver from Towamencin parking codes**  
TOWAMENCIN — A business planning to set up shop in Towamencin is making the case for the township to consider cutting it a break on certain codes. Emerald Equipment Systems, an equipment distribution firm with locations up and down the East Coast, has asked the board to waive parts of the... - [Lansdale Reporter](#)
- 12-13-2018 **Change comes to Baltimore Pike in Upper Darby**  
UPPER DARBY — The face of Baltimore Pike in the township is changing. And a couple of well-known landmarks are no more. Pizza Hut, at the corner of Baltimore and Oak Avenues, is gone and the Burlington Coat Factory, on the same property is next to fall under the... - [Primos Delaware County Daily and Sunday Times](#)
- 12-13-2018 **Proposed County Hotel Tax Increase Could Include Airbnbs**  
Centre County commissioners said this week that potential changes to the county hotel occupancy tax could include short-term rental booking services such as Airbnb. "We need to make sure if one element of our hospitality community is paying the tax then all are," Commissioner Steve Dershem said at the board's... - [State College News](#)



- 12-13-2018 **[The Site of 14 Crashes in 2 Years, a Local Intersection May Soon See Change](#)**  
The intersection of South Atherton Street and Warner Boulevard/Shingletown Road has been the site of numerous crashes in recent years, but Harris Township officials hope they soon will be permitted to make a change to improve safety. Since signals at the intersection were changed as part of PennDOT's Warner... - [State College News](#)
- 12-13-2018 **[State senator seeks hike in stream cleaning](#)**  
State Sen. Gene Yaw, R-Loyalsock Township, met with local, municipal and state officials Wednesday to take a tour of areas known for flooding along Wallis Run Road and Route 87. During the tour, Yaw spoke about the importance of regular maintenance for waterways.... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)
- 12-13-2018 **[PennDOT Recognizes Central Mountain Paint the Plow Students](#)**  
Paint the Plow is a community outreach program in which students are invited to paint a PennDOT snow plow blade with original artwork to represent their individual school. Earlier this year students from faculty member Ryan Broughton's Auto Body/ Auto Mechanics helped prep the plow for the art students of teacher... - [Lock Haven Record](#)
- 12-13-2018 **[County Seeks Independent Operator for Flight School](#)**  
The Bradford County Airport Authority is seeking an outside company to take over the operation of the flight school at the airport. - [Wyalusing Rocket-Courier](#)
- 12-13-2018 **[State Rep. Tedd Nesbit accused of DUI](#)**  
State Rep. Tedd Nesbit, R-8th, has apologized after being stopped by state police early Saturday morning and accused of driving under the influence. Mercer County-based state police said they observed a car, driven by Nesbit, 51, committing traffic violations and pulled him over around 2:51... - [Butler Eagle](#)
- 12-13-2018 **[Bradford water rates increasing in 2019](#)**  
The Bradford City Water Authority announced it will raise water rates in 2019. The rate increase is due to the proposed installation of an additional transmissions main to prevent a water crisis like the one authority customers experienced in 2015. Rates will increase from \$2.70 to \$3.15 per 1,000 gallons, and fixed meter... - [Bradford Era](#)
- 12-13-2018 **[PennDOT to host public meeting about Perry Street Bridge](#)**  
OIL CITY — The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) invites the public to a meeting to gather historical information on South Perry Street Bridge in Titusville. The meeting will be held in conjunction with a regularly scheduled work session for the Titusville council.... - [Titusville Herald](#)
- 12-13-2018 **[Athens Borough: Work continuing on trail accessibility project](#)**  
Construction crews continued their work on installing fencing along the Susquehanna River bank in Athens Borough. - [Sayre Morning](#)



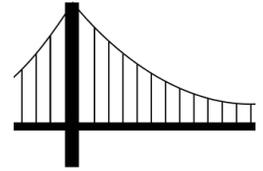
- 12-13-2018 **Dirt and gravel projects might be under-assessed**  
Clarion Conservation District Erosion and Sediment/Dirt Gravel Low Volume Roads Technician Devin Lineman informed district board of directors Nov. 20 the county might be getting less funding than it's due. "Clarion has been under-assessed," he said. Lineman, who attended a "dirt and gravel road" conference in October,... - [Clarion News](#)
- 12-13-2018 **Nissan and Renault Face Leadership Crisis After C.E.O. Is Jailed**  
During the nearly two decades he dominated the alliance of Renault and Nissan, Carlos Ghosn achieved something of a miracle in the auto world. He managed to get the French and Japanese companies to act as one entity so both could prosper in an industry where scale is everything.... - [New York Times](#)
- 12-13-2018 **Philly's most dangerous roads clustered in black and brown neighborhoods**  
Nearly half — 46 percent— of Philadelphia's most dangerous roads are in poor areas mostly populated by people of color, according to an analysis of city crash data done by the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia. These collision-prone streets cut across the entire city, but... - [WHYY](#)
- 12-13-2018 **City pollution hearing finds some communities aren't feeling much improvement**  
PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) -- Philadelphia's pollution problem got scrutiny, Wednesday, at a city council hearing on environmental justice. Health officials report improvement, but advocates want more done. The air in Philadelphia is better than it was 25 years ago, according to... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)
- 12-13-2018 **West Philly residents formed a transit task force because Vision Zero isn't cutting it**  
It was just a few weeks ago that Cedar Park resident Corinne felt the need for change. Literally. She was riding her bike down a tight one-way street and got hit by a car. She used to ride everywhere, she told attendees at a Monday night community meeting, but now she's anxious to mount her two-wheeler at all.... - [Philadelphia Billy Penn](#)
- 12-13-2018 **Jeep Cherokee transmission settlement could be a clunker for consumers**  
The closest call was when Peter Lugaro tried to pass an Amish buggy on Route 896, a hilly road that he drove from Lancaster to West Grove. His Jeep Cherokee's transmission failed while alongside the horse-drawn carriage, losing power as an oncoming car approached. Unable to accelerate,... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 12-13-2018 **Peters Township council considers making Barnett Street one-way**  
Peters Township council considers making Barnett Street one-way Council in Peters came to the consensus Monday that Barnett Street, off of Venetia Road, eventually will be changed to a one-way street after a proposed development is approved. The township's planning commission is expected to consider the Westbury... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)



- 12-13-2018 **Auditor: Port Authority buses are late too often, but they're getting better**  
No surprise to Port Authority riders: buses are late almost a third of the time, according to a new audit. The 67 percent on-time rate — significantly worse than some similar size transit networks — was the headline number from Auditor General Eugene DePasquale's performance audit of the county's transit... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 12-13-2018 **Wow Air says it is laying off employees, cutting airplanes**  
Discount carrier Wow Air is cutting employees and airplanes, moves that could further jeopardize its service from Pittsburgh International Airport. In a statement released Thursday, Wow outlined changes that included the layoff of 111 employees and reduction in its single aisle Airbus jets from... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 12-13-2018 **Man gives up 1st-class plane seat for mother with ill child en route to CHOP**  
A Pennsylvania man who has been praised for giving up his first-class seat for a mother with an 11-month-old sick baby said he doesn't think it was that big of a deal... - [AP](#)
- 12-13-2018 **Virgin Galactic reaches space and is one step closer to space tourism**  
Virgin Galactic launched a spacecraft more than 50 miles high Thursday morning, meeting the Federal Aviation Administration's definition of space and capturing a long-elusive goal for the company founded by Richard Branson that one day wants to fly tourists high through the atmosphere.... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 12-13-2018 **American Airlines to add new route from HIA next year**  
Travelers choosing to fly out of HIA will have one more option next year: Texas. American Airlines is adding another route from Harrisburg International Airport. The airline currently has flights to Boston, Chicago, Charlotte and Philadelphia from HIA, and beginning next year, travelers will be able... - [Penn Live](#), [Patriot-News](#)
- 12-12-2018 **New ways sought to combat distracted driving, as survey shows 75 percent of locals use phone in car**  
Wondering whether that drifting driver who just cut you off was on his phone? Chances are he probably was. Three-quarters of people on Philadelphia-area roads use a mobile device while driving, according to a survey released Tuesday. Many are concerned with communicating with family; others are worried about missing out on... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 12-12-2018 **War over Harrisburg streets heats up as new road projects try to slow down traffic**  
Harrisburg roads have long focused on getting commuters into and out of the city as fast as possible. But that's changing now as the city is pursuing a half-dozen road projects that would give more power to residents, pedestrians and bicyclists by shrinking the number of traffic lanes and adding more crosswalks and bike... - [Penn Live](#), [Patriot-News](#)



- 12-12-2018 **Local airports to receive state funding for improvements**  
An influx of state funding is going to give local airports a lift. Gov. Tom Wolf announced state grant funding to improve 26 airports, including a combined \$712,500 for infrastructure and equipment upgrades at Joseph A. Hardy Connellsville Airport, Rostraver Airport and Washington... - [Uniontown Herald-Standard](#)
- 12-12-2018 **Starbucks construction may start in the spring**  
Construction on a strip mall that will include a Starbucks restaurant across from Penn State Hazleton could begin in the spring. In July, the Sugarloaf Twp. Zoning Hearing Board granted final approval to build the structure if the developer receives approval from the state on a... - [Hazleton Standard-Speaker](#)
- 12-12-2018 **Streetscape project funding delays Alter St. meters' return**  
Administrators in Hazleton are waiting to hear whether the city secures enough grant money to fully fund a streetscape project on Alter Street before deciding when parking meters will return to a section of the thoroughfare. Mayor Jeff Cusat said he wants to wait and see what happens with grant... - [Hazleton Standard-Speaker](#)
- 12-12-2018 **Pilot flying infant remains to family makes emergency landing on Spring Brook Twp. road**  
A pilot flying infant remains to a family made an emergency landing on a Spring Brook Twp. road Tuesday morning, officials said. Craig Groff, 55, Lititz, a volunteer pilot for Angel Flight East, landed his Columbia 400 aircraft, N618G, near O'Hara and Mislinski roads at... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 12-12-2018 **McBride Viaduct demolition continues**  
Crews from Swank Construction Co., of New Kensington, began tearing down the 80-year-old eastside bridge on Nov., 27. Slowly and methodically, the McBride Viaduct is coming down. Contractors from Swank Construction Co. have removed significant portions of the 80-year-old eastside bridge, including eight support spans and parts... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 12-12-2018 **Plan for new warehouse in Conewago Twp. would require rerouting Exit 28**  
Plans for a new warehouse in Conewago Township could require a reconfiguration of Interstate 83's Strinestown exit. Representatives of Goodman North American Partnership, a global industrial property group with offices in Allentown, discussed the plans at township... - [York Dispatch](#)
- 12-12-2018 **'Community space' being discussed for former Meadville Club location**  
When the former Meadville Club building was demolished late last month, interest immediately sparked concerning what would become of the location at 951-955 Market St. The social club's building was purchased by The ARC of Crawford County in February for \$61,000 at a judicial sale held by the Crawford County Tax... - [Meadville Tribune](#)



- 12-12-2018 **Sharon is ready to pass budget**  
SHARON – City council is prepared to approve its 2019 budget, marking the ninth consecutive year without a property tax increase. After completing a second reading of the budget last week, council is expected to pass its final spending plan Dec. 19. Residents can see Sharon’s proposed 2019 general operating budget, with... - [Sharon Herald](#)
- 12-12-2018 **AOAA gets \$25,000 grant**  
HARRISBURG — The Wolf administration on Tuesday awarded new grant funding that will support two recipients in Pennsylvania for all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trails, including the Coal Township-based Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area (AOAA). “Using funds from ATV riders when they register their vehicles, these... - [Shamokin News-Item](#)
- 12-12-2018 **Township surplus allows for no tax increase**  
Although spending for 2019 is projected to increase for Old Lycoming Township, a surplus of 2018 funds will be carried over to keep taxes the same, supervisors announced Tuesday night. The carry-over will allow the township to keep the millage rate at 4.713 mills for the upcoming year.... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)
- 12-12-2018 **Pipeline project open house draws some dissent**  
A proposed pipeline expansion in Lycoming County received a less-than enthusiastic reception from at least two people attending a public open house session Tuesday night in Hughesville. The Leidy South Project will increase the capacity for existing right-of-way lines carrying natural gas through northern Lycoming County... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)
- 12-12-2018 **Police issue sober warning**  
Last December, 885 people who headed out on the roads for the holidays didn’t come home due to a drunken driver. That’s according to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, which tracks drunken driving statistics from around the country. This holiday season, between Dec. 13-31, state and local law enforcement... - [Lehighon Times News](#)
- 12-12-2018 **Study recommends intersection fixes in Pottstown region**  
POTTSTOWN — What are the Pottstown region's worst intersections and, perhaps more important, what must be done to improve them? Those were the questions faced by the members of the Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission Thursday night. That's when a draft of a study of nine intersections by the Delaware Valley... - [Pottstown Mercury](#)
- 12-12-2018 **Venango budget gets final OK**  
Venango County commissioners on Tuesday gave final approval to the county's 2019 budget. But the spending plan, which keeps the tax rate unchanged at six mills, wasn't passed unanimously. Commissioners chairman Tim Brooks cast a no vote because the budget doesn't include a required contribution to the pensions... - [Oil City Derrick](#)



- 12-12-2018 **[City takes over airport accounting](#)**  
Titusville city government will be taking over accounting responsibilities for the Titusville Airport after a unanimous vote by the Airport Authority, Tuesday. Authority President Don Frazier said at the monthly meeting of the board that the action was being taken in order to save costs for the airport.... - [Titusville Herald](#)
- 12-12-2018 **[Amtrak's split-flap schedule board may not depart 30th Street Station after all](#)**  
PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — Amtrak's classic split-flap board at 30th Street Station may not be destined for the scrap heap just yet. Amtrak CEO Richard Anderson told Rep. Brendan Boyle during a lengthy discussion that the passenger railroad service may reconsider its plan to... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)
- 12-12-2018 **[Report: Amtrak rethinking fate of Philly station sign envisioned for Strasburg railroad museum](#)**  
The iconic flipboard sign at 30th Street Station in Philadelphia may not be coming to Lancaster County after all. Last month, LNP reported that Amtrak officials had made a "verbal offer" to donate the sign to the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania in Strasburg.... - [AP](#)
- 12-11-2018 **[Southeastern PA Transportation Authority \(SEPTA\) Board Agenda for Dec. 20, 2018](#)**  
(Press Release)
- 12-11-2018 **[SEPTA Awarded \\$15 Million Federal BUILD Grant for 30th StreetMarket-Frankford...](#)**  
(Press Release)
- 12-11-2018 **[Secretary of the Budget Presents Mid-Year Budget Briefing and New Secretary](#)**  
(Around the Capital)
- 12-11-2018 **[Pothole patching will squeeze I-70 traffic in S. Huntingdon](#)**  
Traffic on Interstate 70 will be restricted to a single lane in each direction beginning at 9 a.m. Thursday, between the Smithton and Yukon exits in South Huntingdon. PennDOT officials said the restriction, which will last for about eight hours, is needed to make emergency repairs to potholes along the stretch of... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 12-11-2018 **[Lights on Interstate 79 have been out for years: Letters to the editor](#)**  
A recent letter mentioned that the lights on Interstate 79 have been out for three months. That's putting it mildly. I can say that from West 26th Street north they most likely have been out for one and a half years since the construction. However, the lights at... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 12-11-2018 **[Editorial: Toll on Pennsylvania Turnpike must be fixed, and soon](#)**  
The Issue: Gov. Tom Wolf speaks of ending an 11-year run of rising rates on the 360-mile roadway. Our Opinion: As the state's leader, he should take charge, come up with a plan and build a consensus for it. A 2007 "fix" of Pennsylvania's approach to funding road repairs is... - [Reading Eagle](#)



12-11-2018 **Police warn drivers to slow down at five corners intersection following spike in crashes**

Police are increasing patrols and warning drivers to slow down at the five corners intersection in Uniontown, where three pedestrians were hit in less than two months. "We're just encouraging drivers to pay attention and slow down," said Uniontown City Police Lt. Tom Kolencik.... - [Uniontown Herald-Standard](#)

12-11-2018 **Walsh announces district office changes**

State Rep. Justin Walsh, a Republican from Rostraver, has announced changes in locations and hours of his district offices. The main district office will remain at 1739 Rostraver Road in Belle Vernon, and is open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The... - [Washington Observer-Reporter](#)

12-11-2018 **Nesbit accused of DUI**

GROVE CITY — State Rep. Tedd Nesbit could face a driving under the influence charge after a weekend traffic stop. Nesbit's vehicle was stopped about 8:51 p.m. Saturday on Interstate 80 southbound at mile marker 118 in Findley Township, according to a press release issued Monday by the Pennsylvania State Police.... - [Sharon Herald](#)

12-11-2018 **AOAA on track with mountain biking**

Board members at the Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area in Northumberland County are on the trail toward a new concept that could likely bring even more economic benefits to the coal region. The 6,500 acres of forest and reclaimed coal lands stretching across five... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)

12-11-2018 **Study recommends intersection fixes in Pottstown region**

POTTSTOWN — What are the Pottstown region's worst intersections and, perhaps more important, what must be done to improve them? Those were the questions faced by the members of the Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Commission Thursday night. That's when a draft of a study of nine intersections by the Delaware Valley... - [Pottstown Mercury](#)

12-11-2018 **Drunken truck driver charged in I-81 crash that killed man changing tire, police say**

A truck driver has been charged with homicide by vehicle while driving under the influence in an Interstate 81 crash that claimed the life of a firefighter in the spring, according to a PennLive report. Robert A. Runyon, 47, of Newville, was driving a water-tanker truck on... - [Chambersburg Public Opinion](#)

12-11-2018 **These kids trade virtual world for a chance to experience railroad history in Stewartstown**

The 134-year-old Stewartstown Railroad is taking on the challenge of preserving history and bringing a new generation onboard that craves real-world experience. In order for the railroad to succeed, it needs new blood to carry on the historical passion and hard work, according to Mike Ruane, a director of... - [York Daily](#)



- 12-11-2018 **[Hamilton hikes maximum fine for road bond violations](#)**  
LUDLOW — Like many Kane area municipalities, Hamilton Township requires operators of heavy trucks to post bonds to cover possible damages to local roads. In addition to a \$50 permit fee, operators of heavy trucks must provide the township with evidence of insurance.... - [Kane Republican](#)
- 12-11-2018 **[Connellsville Airport receives grant to update weather system](#)**  
A \$75,000 state grant will enable Fayette County's Joseph A. Hardy/ Connellsville Airport to update its weather reporting system. Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf announced last week that the airport was one of 26 facilities chosen to share more than \$6.2 million in funding from PennDOT's... - [Connellsville Daily Courier](#)
- 12-11-2018 **[Aging headlights pose a risk for motorists and pedestrians, AAA says](#)**  
New research from AAA suggests that a lot of motorists are driving at night with aging headlights that barely illuminate the road, increasing the risk of collisions, including potentially deadly ones with pedestrians. In laboratory testing on two popular vehicles that were about 11 years old,... - [Washington Post](#)
- 12-11-2018 **[Ohio's first autonomous shuttle available to public](#)**  
Smart Circuit operates daily along the Scioto River Downtown. Ohio's first self-driving shuttle opened to the public Monday. "It was excellent," said Kayla Wilson, 20, who took a ride on the shuttle, called Smart Circuit. "I would definitely use it again." Wilson documented her trip with pictures and videos, noting how the shuttle... - [Columbus Dispatch](#)
- 12-11-2018 **[Uber hopes to restore self-driving operations in a matter of weeks as it races toward a possible IPO](#)**  
For a majority of the year, Uber's self-driving Volvo SUVs have been either absent from city streets or operating with the help of human safety drivers in the wake of a fatal accident involving one of the vehicles. In March, an Uber in autonomous mode struck and killed a pedestrian in... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 12-11-2018 **[Report: Self-driving Uber swerved onto Pittsburgh sidewalk just days before fatal crash](#)**  
Days before an Uber in self-driving mode struck and killed a pedestrian in Tempe, Ariz., in March, a manager in the testing operations group told company executives and lawyers in an email that the vehicles were "routinely in accidents resulting in damage," including in... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 12-11-2018 **[Road Warrior: The 10 busiest roads in the Lehigh Valley](#)**  
Drivers in the Lehigh Valley are putting an increasingly high burden on the region's transportation grid. In 2017, we collectively logged an average of 14.3 million miles on the road network every day. That's an increase of about 650,000 miles a day from 2014, according to the Lehigh... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)



- 12-10-2018 **Hampton will not participate in PennDOT aggressive driving campaign**  
Not all Hampton council members were on board with implementing an aggressive driving campaign in the township, with a motion falling flat at the Dec. 5 council meeting. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation provides grant money to pay for overtime to participating police departments who are to target... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 12-10-2018 **Israeli inventor of car cameras says self-driving vehicles are future of artificial intelligence**  
Amnon Shashua, cofounder and chief technology officer of the Israeli company Mobileye, lives and works at the vanguard of self-driving cars. "Autonomous vehicles are really just a platform for artificial intelligence," he told a rapt audience at an event hosted by the... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 12-10-2018 **Wilkes-Barre area in focus for efforts to improve transit, walkability**  
WILKES-BARRE — Local entities including the Luzerne County Transportation Authority, the Diamond City Partnership and LiveWell Luzerne (a YMCA program) have earned the praise of a national nonprofit for their efforts to promote public transit and walkability in Wilkes-Barre and... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)
- 12-10-2018 **Hanover Twp. road barrier crumbling; future uncertain**  
A landmark road barrier in Hanover Twp. is crumbling and there is no timetable for its replacement. The concrete wall on Malinowski's Hill, a short but steep stretch of St. Mary's Road, is deteriorating. Chunks of the wall often fall onto the road which has no shoulders.... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)
- 12-10-2018 **Scranton city, school district explore sharing of services**  
SCRANTON — The city and school district have identified several areas for potential sharing of services to save money and become more efficient, officials said. A joint committee with two members each from Scranton City Council and Scranton School Board was formed earlier this year and has since been... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 12-10-2018 **Rain taxed PSU parking**  
UNIVERSITY PARK — Penn State may not have had a record-breaking season on the football field, but Mother Nature had a record-breaking year on the university campus. And that created a major parking headache. "We've broken precipitation records for the summer, fall and for... - [Altoona Mirror](#)
- 12-10-2018 **Increasing safety**  
Motorists using Chestnut Street through Nanty Glo are "reminded to share the road" with pedestrians and bicyclists thanks to a new crosswalk as part of a \$2.1 million PennDOT bridge replacement project that also included sidewalk installments, drainage work, new guardrails,... - [Altoona Mirror](#)
- 12-10-2018 **Free ride program for Brookfield senior citizens threatened by lack of drivers**  
BROOKFIELD – Brookfield's free transportation program for the town's senior citizens is getting close to going under, township trustees said. Trustees talked about the service at their regular last week. The van Brookfield bought for the program has to undergo engine repairs, which is... - [Sharon Herald](#)



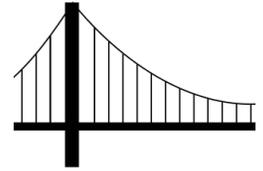
- 12-10-2018 **With challenges, county avoids tax hike**  
MERCER – After two consecutive years cutting property taxes, Mercer County has adopted a 2019 budget with no tax increase. But challenges could be on the horizon. County officials are looking at spending more than \$1 million this year on a new voting machine system, but the condition and age of Mercer... - [Sharon Herald](#)
- 12-10-2018 **Bus operators warn plan will cost state millions and lead to fare hikes**  
HARRISBURG – A move to merge management of the state's busing services for Medicaid clients will cost the state millions and likely lead to increased fares and poorer service for riders, an analysis by the trade group representing Pennsylvania's county transit agencies maintains.... - [New Castle News](#)
- 12-10-2018 **PennDOT releases Potters Mills project update**  
POTTERS MILLS –The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation issued a mid-December update Thursday, for its Route 322/Potters Mills Gap project in southeast Centre County. Up-to-date information can be found on the PMG Project page at [www.penndot.gov/pottersmillsgap](http://www.penndot.gov/pottersmillsgap). Through Dec. 14, drivers... - [Lewistown Sentinel](#)
- 12-10-2018 **SEPTA receives \$15 million federal grant for 30th Street Station improvements**  
PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — SEPTA is celebrating being awarded a \$15 million federal grant for improvements and renovations to 30th Street Station. SEPTA General Manager Jeff Knueppel said this grant, along with additional funding, will allow construction to begin next year on a number of 30th... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)
- 12-10-2018 **Venango officials happy with economic panel's work**  
Looking back at the Venango County Economic Development Authority's first year, county commissioners Tim Brooks and Vince Witherup say the authority's work has exceeded expectations. The commissioners created the authority for the purpose of handling funding... - [Oil City Derrick](#)
- 12-10-2018 **Copper Thieves Strike America's Roadways**  
Just after midnight in September, a pickup truck struck and killed a 55-year-old woman crossing an intersection in a motorized wheelchair on a dark stretch of Kansas City, Missouri, highway. The streetlights had gone out there — after thieves stole their copper... - [Stateline.org](#)
- 12-10-2018 **Is Eric Garcetti tackling climate change like he really means it?**  
When it comes to climate change, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti talks the talk. Since President Trump pulled out of the Paris climate accords in 2017, Garcetti has repeatedly reaffirmed L.A.'s commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. He has pledged to make the city carbon neutral by... - [Los Angeles Times](#)
- 12-10-2018 **Seizing a logo: Feds hope to kill biker group by taking its identity**  
Federal prosecutors in Los Angeles want to wrest ownership of the logo that members of a motorcycle group use on their helmets and jackets, believing that if the logo disappears, the group itself will fade into obscurity. It is an innovative and laudable way of employing federal forfeiture laws,... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)



- 12-10-2018 **As GM reconsiders future of auto plant, Lordstown holds its breath**  
LORDSTOWN, Ohio — The high school, like much of this village of 3,000 people, is larger than life. Built in 1976 for \$6.5 million, the Lordstown High School complex — with a swimming pool, planetarium, convertible auditorium and expansive gymnasium with balcony seating — was hailed by local media at that time... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 12-10-2018 **Plan for new warehouse in Conewago Twp. would require rerouting Exit 28**  
Plans for a new warehouse in Conewago Township could require a reconfiguration of Interstate 83's Strinestown exit. Representatives of Goodman North American Partnership, a global industrial property group with offices in Allentown, discussed the plans at township... - [York Dispatch](#)
- 12-10-2018 **GM concerns**  
I have a couple of questions regarding Leroy Payne's Dec. 3 letter, "GM Subtext." Regarding the Nov. 28 editorial "GM's Perfidy," he states, "I think the editorial's biggest concern and really the subtext for the editorial, is what impact the job losses will have on Donald..." - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 12-10-2018 **Two hurt in accident on gas line in Westmoreland County**  
Two hurt in accident on gas line in Westmoreland County Two people were taken to local hospitals early Monday after an accident on a gas line in Penn, Westmoreland County, according to a county operations center. The workers had non-life-threatening injuries after some air was released... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 12-10-2018 **Self-driving companies must prepare for the future even if they're not ready — down to the VR and laser patents**  
Part of the occasional series "Patented in Pittsburgh" You pull out your phone to hail an Uber and it arrives, sans driver, just moments later. A door slides open and you hop in, taking a seat next to your car-pooling comrades who all have funky looking headsets on. That's when you, too,... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 12-10-2018 **Westmoreland Transit gives its approval to county comprehensive plan**  
Westmoreland County Transit Authority officials approved a resolution supporting the county's blueprint for future growth. Authority board members unanimously voted to support the draft Reimagining Our Westmoreland comprehensive plan that outlines strategies to improve the... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 12-10-2018 **Customs officers searching more travelers' devices**  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers are searching the electronic devices of travelers more often, and did not always follow proper protocol, a new watchdog report has found... - [AP](#)
- 12-09-2018 **New data on Philly's commutes show strong subway and bike use, need for better buses**  
A detailed look at how Philadelphians commute shows investments in infrastructure paying off in some neighborhoods, while others are turning their backs on public transportation that isn't serving their needs. Cars remain dominant in the city, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)



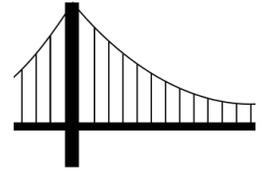
- 12-09-2018 **[Pennsylvania Turnpike to close in both directions tonight between New Stanton and Breezewood](#)**  
The Pennsylvania Turnpike will close in both directions between the New Stanton (Exit 75) and Breezewood (Exit 161) exits for roughly six hours overnight, according to an alert on its website. The road will close at 11 p.m. tonight and re-open to traffic by 5 a.m.... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 12-09-2018 **[Wilkes-Barre parking lot records remain out-of-date](#)**  
A review of city records on privately owned parking lots and parkades that are required to pay fees to the city revealed some records are long out-of-date, and others required by city ordinance are not being kept at all. Sam Stanford, manager of Philadelphia-based SSC Parking, said last week... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)
- 12-09-2018 **[Local railroad traffic up again](#)**  
Fracking for Marcellus Shale natural gas deep underground keeps pushing a local railroad to new heights. After setting a new record for freight traffic last year, the Pennsylvania Northeast Regional Railroad Authority might just do it again for 2018. Through Nov. 21, the Delaware-Lackawanna Railroad, which operates the... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 12-09-2018 **[A 'keystone' bike trail connecting parts of Centre County could cost \\$6 million](#)**  
A two-and-a-half mile bike trail connecting Bellefonte to Milesburg could become a reality, but it's going to take a community effort — and lots of funding, according to a newly released feasibility study on the trail. A Bellefonte-Milesburg trail, said Centre County Commissioner Mark Higgins,... - [State College Centre Daily Times](#)
- 12-09-2018 **[Study lays foundation for local bike trail](#)**  
The potential bike trail to run from Bellefonte to Milesburg was discussed on Thursday night. - [State College Centre Daily Times](#)
- 12-09-2018 **[Traffic, distracted drivers, engineering flaws: No wonder some Lancaster County roads are so dangerous](#)**  
In LancasterOnline's ongoing "We The People" journalism project, readers vote for the stories they want to see reported. The most recent "We The People" story, published in last week's Sunday LNP, originated with this question from a reader: "What's the most... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 12-09-2018 **[Electric cars are a dumb target if Trump wants to hurt GM](#)**  
President Trump, looking for a way to strike back at GM for planning to mothball four U.S. factories that employ thousands of autoworkers, is threatening to take away a tax credit that has helped consumers buy electric vehicles. "The U.S. saved General Motors, and this is the THANKS we get! We are... - [Los Angeles Times](#)
- 12-09-2018 **[Uber Is Said to File for an I.P.O. as It Races Lyft to a Public Debut](#)**  
Uber confidentially filed paperwork on Thursday to go public, according to two people with knowledge of the matter, officially moving toward what is expected to be one of the biggest and most anticipated tech company stock market debuts ever. The ride-hailing company filed its paperwork with the Securities and... - [New York Times](#)



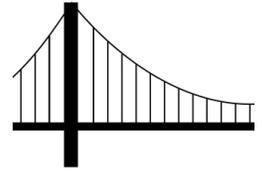
- 12-09-2018 **Maryland's audacious toll road plan could work — if done right**  
WHEN GOV. Larry Hogan (R) last year proposed a \$9 billion blueprint to widen the Beltway, Interstate 270 and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway by building more than 100 miles of toll lanes — potentially one of the most audacious public-private partnerships in the nation — the project... - [Washington Post](#)
- 12-09-2018 **Public transit advocates rally for fare equity**  
With hopes of gaining lower fares and greater access, about 30 activists and riders gathered in front of a downtown Pittsburgh light rail station Friday, to call on the authority to enact reforms to ease the burden on low-income riders. For Laura Wiens, director of transportation advocacy group Pittsburghers... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)
- 12-07-2018 **DCED: Wolf Admin. Celebrates Groundbreaking of Pittsburgh Airport Innovation...**  
(Press Release)
- 12-07-2018 **Rep. Brett Miller - Weekly Roundup for December 7, 2018**  
(Press Release)
- 12-07-2018 **Butler County receives \$20 million federal grant to finish Route 228 improvements**  
After working for nearly 30 years, Butler County officials celebrated Thursday when they received news that the county has been approved for a \$20 million federal grant for the last pieces of the Gateway 228 road improvement project. The federal Department of Transportation announced the first round of... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 12-07-2018 **Upper Macungie Township OKs trailer rental operation at former Plantique Landscaping site**  
A semitrailer rental and service operation will soon add a second Lehigh Valley location in Upper Macungie Township after receiving approval to refurbish a vacant commercial site. Supervisors Thursday granted preliminary/final approval for Jenstar Properties' land development plan to renovate the former Plantique... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 12-07-2018 **Our view: Parkway plans coming into focus**  
A key recommendation of the Erie Refocused comprehensive plan calls for creating "an iconic connection" between downtown Erie and the bayfront. On Tuesday, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation gave people a look at what form that might take. At an open house at Emerson-Gridley School, PennDOT displayed the plans and... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 12-07-2018 **Community adapts to Girard bridge construction**  
GIRARD — Local drivers have adapted to construction on the Route 20 bridge over Elk Creek in Girard Township. "So far, so good," Girard Township Supervisor Bill Felege said. "Traffic has been moving well." Signs alert drivers to slow down and to lane closures ahead, Felege said.... - [Erie Times-News](#)



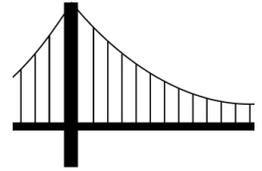
- 12-07-2018 **Bridge work snarls traffic**  
The traffic woes that surprised the Valley on Thursday will be back soon, but the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation promised they would alert Valley residents the next time contractors block part of Veterans Memorial Bridge for debris removal. On Thursday, traffic backed up for blocks along Front Street in Sunbury as... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)
- 12-07-2018 **Pittsburgh Airport Innovation Campus could create hundreds of jobs**  
FINDLAY TWP. — Hundreds of new jobs could be coming to a vacant swath of land next to Pittsburgh International Airport. Calling the land “one of Pennsylvania’s marquee development sites,” airport officials stood alongside other local leaders during a groundbreaking ceremony Thursday morning for the development, called the... - [Beaver County Times](#)
- 12-07-2018 **Airport nabs \$112K state grant**  
Hazleton Regional Airport secured a \$112,500 state grant on Thursday for buying maintenance equipment for the airfield, state and local officials said. The grant represents the latest in a series of developments at the airport that includes expansion of a runway safety area and construction of a cell... - [Hazleton Standard-Speaker](#)
- 12-07-2018 **Crestwood admin remain on leave as bus probe continues**  
WRIGHT TWP. — The Crestwood School district’s superintendent and chief of operations remain on paid leaves as the district continues a probe of how bus drivers were working without background clearances. Some parts of the investigation could conclude this week, and the board is... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)
- 12-07-2018 **Swamp Pike traffic circle part of Limerick project approval**  
LIMERICK — With no comment or discussion, the Limerick Township Board of Supervisors granted final site plan approval to the first phase of a 30-acre project that will eventually bring more than 450 new residences and a traffic circle to the intersection of Ridge and Swamp pikes.... - [Lansdale Reporter](#)
- 12-07-2018 **I-83 study recommends new interchange, widening of highway to six lanes**  
An Interstate 83 study recommends that a new interchange be built in northern York County along with widening the highway to six lanes to help improve the flow of traffic. It suggests building the new interchange at Canal Road in between Emigsville Exit 24 and Strinestown Exit 28. A decision on that would affect... - [York Daily](#)
- 12-07-2018 **Regional costs steady amid road salt shortage**  
The cost of road salt is increasing across the country, but some towns in Bucks County have actually paid less per ton this year than last year. Bucks County towns seem untouched by the salt shortage driving up plowing costs across the country, with some even seeing a drop in price per ton... - [Levittown Bucks County Courier Times](#)
- 12-07-2018 **Somerset County Airport receives \$450K grant for fuel project**  
The Somerset County Airport landed a \$450,000 state grant Thursday to construct an above-ground fuel system. - [Somerset Daily](#)



- 12-07-2018 **Murawski to retire after 32 years**  
At Thursday's Lycoming County Commissioners meeting, the planning department Mark Murawski's (center) 32 years of service. After 32 years and numerous changes to the Lycoming County landscape, Mark Murawski, county transportation supervisor, will retire today.... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)
- 12-07-2018 **A Little-Known Tactic Can Make the U.S. Investigate Your Car-Safety Problem**  
Gary Weinreich was terrified when the steering on his 2005 Toyota 4Runner failed on a busy two-lane highway in South Carolina in May. Later, he was angry enough that he wanted to do more than gripe. So he tried a little-known tactic to compel federal regulators to investigate and... - [New York Times](#)
- 12-07-2018 **Fiat Chrysler Plans to Make New Jeep in Detroit, Adding Jobs**  
Fiat Chrysler Automobiles is planning to convert an engine plant in Detroit to make a new seven-passenger Jeep, people briefed on the plans said Thursday. The move would give the city an economic lift at a time when General Motors and Ford are cutting jobs. Fiat Chrysler's idle Mack Avenue plant, which previously made V6... - [New York Times](#)
- 12-07-2018 **State funds awarded to improve local airports**  
HARRISBURG — Two local airports are among 36 that will make infrastructure and equipment upgrades to maintain safety and expand aviation-related operational and economic opportunities with the assistance of over \$6 million in state investments, Gov. Tom Wolf announced Thursday.... - [Clearfield Progress](#)
- 12-07-2018 **ECC art students recognized by PennDOT**  
Elk County Catholic High School art students and their teacher Peter Winklbauer received a certificate of participation from PennDOT on Wednesday acknowledging their work on the Paint the Plow program. Shown from left to right are students Aliyah Solveson, Jacob Koss, Jesse... - [Saint Marys Daily Press](#)
- 12-07-2018 **With the Economy Uncertain, Tech 'Unicorns' Rush Toward I.P.O.**  
SAN FRANCISCO — For years, Uber and Lyft put off going public. Now, they are speeding up. Faced with a volatile stock market and the prospect of an economic downturn next year, the ride-hailing services have moved more urgently toward an initial public offering, said four people with knowledge of the... - [New York Times](#)
- 12-07-2018 **Poll: Thumbs up for passenger train to NYC**  
HAWLEY - A question was posed on The News Eagle Facebook page to gauge the interest level in the proposal to reestablish a regular passenger train service between Honesdale and Hawley, with New York City. The result of the poll showed a great amount of support.... - [Hawley News Eagle](#)
- 12-07-2018 **Report: Uber's Self-Driving Vehicles Returning To Pittsburgh Streets**  
PITTSBURGH (KDKA) — Uber appears ready to get their self-driving cars back on Pittsburgh roads. Starting in just a few weeks, the New York Times is reporting that the autonomous vehicles will ride in a one-mile loop between Uber's two offices here in Pittsburgh.... - [KDKA](#)



- 12-07-2018 **Major storm brings record rain, mudslides, road closures and snow to Southern California**  
Southern California was pounded by a fierce winter storm Thursday that dumped several inches of snow and rain, unleashing mud and debris flows in Malibu and forcing mandatory evacuations in recent burn zones. While the clouds gave way to sunshine in the afternoon, officials were... - [Los Angeles Times](#)
- 12-07-2018 **Mudslides offer a preview of what could be a wet winter in Southern California**  
As heavy rain pelted Hollywood Burbank Airport on Thursday morning, the pilot of Southwest Flight 278 out of Oakland came over the intercom with a warning: The runway was short and wet. It was going to be a bumpy landing. Paris Organist, a 31-year-old Oakland resident sitting in the front row,... - [Los Angeles Times](#)
- 12-07-2018 **Big strategy: Innovation campus may finally launch development near Pittsburgh's airport**  
Over the years, a bluff overlooking Pittsburgh International Airport has been the stuff of broken dreams for everything from a hotel to the world's first indoor auto racing complex. But now Allegheny County Airport Authority officials have a vision for the 195-acre tract that they believe will take off — and take hold.... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 12-07-2018 **Bus riders rally to oppose Port Authority's high fares for cash-paying customers**  
Port Authority bus riders who object to higher fares for cash customers chanted a different holiday message Friday. Pittsburghers for Public Transit and Just Harvest held a rally at the Wood Street T Station, Downtown, to call attention to its effort to eliminate... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 12-07-2018 **Allegheny County Council unanimously passes 2019 budget**  
Allegheny County Council approved County Executive Rich Fitzgerald's roughly \$1 billion dollar operating plan by a 13-0 vote Tuesday night. The plan includes a \$932 million operating budget, \$111 million for the capital budget, and an additional \$1 billion grants budget. This is an... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)
- 12-07-2018 **PAT bus riders rally Downtown, demand lower bus fares**  
Port Authority Transit bus riders demanded fair bus fares during a rally Friday in Downtown Pittsburgh. About 2,500 Allegheny County residents signed a petition calling on the Port Authority board to implement "equitable fare policies which will grow transit ridership in the region." Demands included the elimination... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)



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