



February 15-21, 2019

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SESSION STATUS

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

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 PUC (BH)

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

By Mike Howells, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee held a budget hearing with the Public Utility Commission (PUC), represented by Chairman Gladys Brown and commissioners David Sweet, Norman Kennard, Andrew Place, and John Coleman.

[Chairman Brown](#) offered brief opening remarks. She noted the commission is requesting for the 2019-20 fiscal year \$81.08 million, comprising \$75.53 million in state funds and \$5.55 million in potential federal funds. She said that constitutes a 1.8 percent increase over the previous year, "Driven by contractual salary and benefit obligations, along with increases for health care costs, retirement contributions, and the cost of non-discretionary vendor goods and services." She emphasized the commission does not use General Fund moneys.

Brown summarized the role and duties of the PUC, and also highlighted a legislative change sought by the commission. She explained current language in the Public Utility Code limits the amount the commission can assess utilities to finance its budget. Brown relayed the commission's recommendation to increase that cap from three tenths of one percent of total gross operating revenues of public utilities to one-half of one percent.

Sen. Boscola, minority chairman of the Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee, said there has been a lot of discussion on the current and future mix of energy generation. She said she supports a diverse portfolio and asked how important the role of nuclear power is for the state, in the context of limiting carbon emissions. Brown said the commission has always been one that acknowledges the state's diverse generation portfolio. In terms of PUC's position on nuclear power, she said in the current climate and whether or not a subsidy should be granted to the industry, they have no jurisdiction over nuclear generation since legislation passed in 1996, making it difficult to opine on the industry. That said, she went on, they have comments on the record regarding the possible impact of a nuclear subsidy, rather than specifically for or against nuclear power.

Sen. Boscola asked if other forms of energy are subsidized. Brown said Pennsylvania subsidizes wind and solar power through the alternative energy portfolio standards (AEPS), and reiterated the PUC does not oppose being a part of the broader discussion regarding how Pennsylvania generates its electricity. Place discussed possible theoretical regulatory actions. Sen. Boscola said the crux of the issue is how to handle base load generation particularly given a goal of 100-percent renewable sources. Brown acknowledged that is a conversation many states around Pennsylvania are having, and speaking individually said she does not see it coming quickly but rather in a more measured, methodical manner.

On the competitive electric retail market, Sen. Boscola asked if the commission monitors



pricing and average pricing being offered in service territories. Brown said part of the move to retail competition was that the PUC doesn't have jurisdiction over rates providers charge. Rather, she said, they offer a resource by which people can comparison shop, in the form of a website. Sen. Boscola said she has been receiving numerous robocalls offering to reduce her electric rate. Sweet said he lives in a Philadelphia condo building and does not get a direct electric bill but also gets such robocalls. He said PUC is trying to be vigilant, and increasingly vigilant, about such attempts.

Sen. Boscola asked how Uber and Lyft are settling into the Pennsylvania marketplace. Sweet said they are monitoring the situation carefully, and do not have evidence of widespread bad behavior at this time. He noted there is an audit ongoing of Uber. He said they think they have overcome "the culture of arrogance" that Uber, at least, displayed at the outset. Place clarified Uber was not "singled out," but rather was simply first in line in entering the market.

Speaking to the commission's legislative proposal, Chairman Browne asked how long the assessment percentage has been in law. Brown said she believes it dates to 1987 or earlier. Among the causes for them to review the number is that companies are no longer vertically integrated as they were back then. Additionally, she said with Act 129 of 2008 they put in different efficiency measures. With respect to telephone companies she noted far more use mobile service now, while over the same period, PUC's responsibilities have increased. Chairman Browne asked if there is any thought given to expanding what the rate can be applied to; in effect broadening the base. Brown said they are open to that possibility.

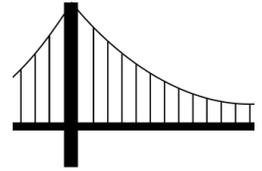
Sen. Langerholc said there are parts of his district almost impossible to service with rural broadband, and asked what PUC's role is going forward to address the problem, particularly in situations of emergency response. He also asked what could be done to incentivize companies to invest in rural broadband. Kennard said there has been renewed interest in rural broadband, and the FCC now defines broadband according to the "Netflix standard." He discussed the challenges involved with laying out broadband in rural areas and the federal government's Connect America initiative. At the commission, Kennard said they are reviewing utility poles and reducing regulations on utilities so they can focus more on the marketplace.

Sen. Langerholc said as chair of the Senate Communications and Technology he has been meeting with stakeholders including CenturyLink, and has been given the impression that regulations are out of date. Kennard agreed they are in need of modernizing, having not been updated since the 1980s.

Sen. Aument spoke to the challenging and complex nature of the current nuclear energy issue, as well as its urgency. He said if they fail to take action the results are irreversible once shutdown procedures begin. He thanked PUC for its involvement as a resource. He asked Brown's views on AEPS and the possibility of updating it. He asked if market conditions would be more favorable to non-AEPS sources had it not been implemented. Brown agreed the issue is very complex, and reiterated PUC has no oversight responsibility anymore. She spoke to the Nuclear Caucus's report and offered to follow up with a written response as to the efficacy of AEPS.

Sen. Schwank expressed appreciation for the work of the PUC and asked about gas pipeline development in the southeast. She said there is an impact in her district from the Mariner II East pipeline. Brown said it is currently under a voluntary shutdown since early January. She said that with it being a case before the commission they cannot currently go into detail on it. Sen. Schwank communicated strong frustration on behalf of the people and organizations affected by the pipeline. Brown said the commission will be looking to make sure the company is operating under state and federal laws, including all environmental requirements. Sen. Schwank discussed new pipelines including Mariner II which will run along the same line as the existing Mariner East. Coleman said they are not sure what to anticipate seeing. He added he has empathy for those affected by pipeline construction who are looking for information. He said it would be extremely helpful if the operator would sit with those groups to explain what is going on. He credited the professionalism of the commission's gas safety inspectors, who often become the single point of contact for issues. Sen. Schwank asked what the legislature could do to protect homeowners from the issues they are facing. Brown reiterated her hesitancy in commenting given the ongoing litigation. Sen. Schwank said she hopes the issue can be revisited at some point.

Sen. Killion reiterated the concerns expressed by Sen. Schwank and said the level of frustration is high. Brown said she



and her staff understand the concerns felt by residents. Kennard emphasized he hopes Sunoco is listening but reminded members PUC's authority extends to pipeline inspection.

Sen. Laughlin said he is a fan of green energy but is concerned about its cost, and, in Erie County, the possible consequences of manufacturing disadvantages by relying on more expensive sources of power, when China, for example, uses the lowest cost possible. Brown said they don't have that jurisdiction over generation, and said that while they can be part of the conversation, policy choices over the state's energy portfolio lie with others.

Sen. Phillips-Hill talked about rural broadband access and asked about efforts to reduce regulatory barriers to development, and whether PUC has the ability to work unilaterally or needs statutory assistance. She also asked what federal assets lay in the state that could be used for broadband development. Kennard said pooling assets would be best, and on the federal side said a review of available assets is underway, while the governor's office is also taking a similar inventory.

Sen. Santarsiero asked how many miles of pipelines PUC is responsible for. Brown said 1,100 miles of transmission pipelines, with around 22 inspectors. She said they intend to add more inspectors each year in coming years. Coleman added they have been given added responsibilities in recent years to different classes of pipelines. He added gas safety inspectors are in high demand at the moment, with a two-year waiting list to start the necessary education. He noted the industry and PHMSA (Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration) itself typically has salaries that outstrip PUC's ability to hire away trained staff. Coleman said the commission believes it would need double or triple the number of current staffers to have enough. Brown clarified they are looking at adding four staff a year for a number of years to reach the needed complement.

Sen. Santarsiero asked what PUC is doing regarding potential cyber threats to infrastructure. Brown said the commission has been working for more than a decade on the problem, and has recently hired an in-house cyber security expert to be involved with audits of companies' security measures.

Sen. Blake noted there are two issues related to pipelines, laying new transmission pipelines and maintaining and improving legacy distribution lines. He asked if the commission is satisfied by the process for the latter. Coleman said regulated entities submit plans for approval, and they are monitored and inspected by commission inspectors. Sen. Blake said he hopes at some point the PUC can help lawmakers understand the practical and economic consequences of including nuclear power in the AEPS. Brown said they are more than happy to be a part of that process but they are not going to be the source of a final answer on the subject. Sweet said if they get proposed language and are asked to model its impact, they could probably offer some sort of answer.

Sen. Street said the issue of nuclear power generation is important in maintaining a safe electric grid and also making sure that is done without increasing the state's carbon footprint. He asked if nuclear power allows Pennsylvania to produce a stable base load without emitting greenhouse gases. Brown confirmed it is a zero-emission fuel. Sen. Street postulated that removing it as a source would mean the state has either a less stable or less clean grid. The panel indicated that is a fair statement. Sen. Street said for that reason it is important to keep nuclear as part of the state's portfolio.

Sen. Scavello asked how much the PUC has collected from the state's impact fee. Coleman said they have collected \$1.4 billion over seven years. For this year he said they expect something in the same annual ballpark figure.

Sen. Scavello asked the level of complaints coming in to the commission over smart meters. Brown confirmed they get a lot. Sen. Scavello said he gets regular emails over smart meter problems. Sweet said the statute passed by the legislature doesn't provide exceptions on smart meters. He said occasionally a case does filter up to the PUC through the administrative law process, but "no one has yet been able to really prove that there was an adverse health impact that came from a smart meter."

Sen. Scavello said in his district the Department of Transportation is working on a bridge that was closed and a detour is taking drivers underneath a railroad causing in issue with a junction box located nearby. He asked if a junction box



needing to be moved would require a permit. Brown said it would depend on the utility involved. Sen. Scavello said it pretty urgent and requested PUC's intervention if possible.

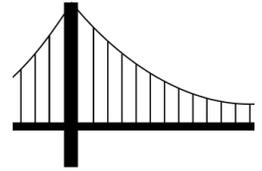
Sen. Boscola read from statistics on the PJM website and wondered how people are claiming Pennsylvania is at 15 percent renewable. Brown clarified she was speaking about the requirement for electric distribution companies to procure renewables; they are at close to 15 percent of that 2021 requirement. Sen. Boscola wondered if it is even possible to close that gap and how prices will be affected, speculating it will be "way high expensive." Place indicated he does not believe Pennsylvania will reach 100 percent renewable in his lifetime, but suggested incremental movements overtime will come in tandem with declining cost curves. "There's pretty good information" that wind and solar are or will soon be fairly competitive with fossil sources, he stated, and said deploying assets is the only way to drive down the cost curve.

Sen. Ward spoke about the Pittsburgh Sewer and Water Authority (PSWA), over which the PUC was recently given jurisdiction. Brown confirmed the PUC hired seven people in conjunction with that new oversight authority. Kennard was unsure how many complaints were received, but suggested the number is fewer than anticipated. He confirmed PSWA serves 80,000 customers. Brown praised staff outreach and advance work before it formally received that oversight jurisdiction. Sen. Ward asked if private companies pay a fee for their PUC services. Brown confirmed they are assessed based on the hours put in, as is also done with the municipal authorities. Sen. Ward opined the "huge authorities... providing a vital utility" have no oversight and pointed out it would not cost the PUC to receive that oversight because the authorities would pay the assessments. Brown confirmed this and cited past testimony on that issue and estimated that would necessitate an 800 percent increase in staff. Sen. Ward suggested only the large authorities should be moved under PUC oversight to protect consumers because currently they don't answer to anyone. Brown acknowledge the concern and deferred to the legislature's policy choices, but suggested any such increased oversight occur incrementally to allow the PUC to ramp up.

Sen. Phillips-Hill discussed new market efficiency standards for the siting of high voltage transmission lines and recalled testimony during a related case from the Office of the Consumer Advocate that energy costs will increase to Pennsylvanians with decreased cost to consumers in Washington, DC. She asked what protections are in place for Pennsylvania consumers. Brown confirmed that case is before the PUC, but Place spoke generally about those types of projects. Place explained the ongoing "considerable build" in supplemental projects and affirmed the PUC is trying to be careful ratepayers are not inadvertently burdened. He said the PUC looks closely at the economic rationale and whether they should be FERC or PUC projects. Sen. Phillips-Hill asked if the right protections are in place for Pennsylvanians. Place confirmed that's "very much an open question" that needs an answer, but assured the committee it has the PUC's attention. Brown added that is consideration that will be given during the case.

Chairman Browne returned to the conversation about nuclear's place in generation capacity and asked how the PUC describes the deregulation law in that conversation. Brown responded that at that time Pennsylvania's costs were about 15 percent higher than the national average and conversations were about the economic benefits for consumers, which is how the act came about. Chairman Browne asked if the law addresses that uncompetitive component of the energy generation portfolio. Brown recalled that it did not and said the conversation was about the economic benefit to the consumer and that "the marketplace will set the price." Chairman Browne recalled "stranded costs." Brown agreed and said that was a payment for what might be considered a taking of property assets, which she estimated was about \$11 billion across all the companies. Chairman Browne added the expectation was to address stranded costs in the portfolio that would not be competitive without those dollars. He opined that conversations about where nuclear fits going forward have to recognize the context of the legislature's support of that proposal at the time. He noted he voted for that law.

Chairman Browne also asked for an update on commitments made by companies to reinvest in their systems. Coleman commented the amount of cast iron bare steel in the ground is "staggering." He cited the dangers of these pipes and said the PUC has been "bullish" in aggressively replacing those pipes, noting the legislature has provided the needed tools. He said the progress is headed in the right direction, but there are challenges for communities to use their public works dollars on these projects instead. He wondered about possibilities of restricting dollars to pipeline replacement as opposed to repaving a street curb-to-curb. Chairman Browne asked how long this is expected to take. Coleman replied



it depends on the systems, noting Philadelphia has a longer time frame than UGI or Columbia and some are being more aggressive than others. Chairman Browne commented this is the kind of thing that needs to be done incrementally with forward progress, even though it is not the “shiny object” of new industry. He asked that the PUC let the legislature know if they can be of help. Coleman remarked on the importance of coordination of underground facility owners, noting some are doing better than others, and mentioned the Coordinate PA program through Pennsylvania One Call. He lamented it is not happening well for most of Pennsylvania, however, and said the PUC is working to improve coordination.

Chairman Browne asked if there is any precedent in the country in the context of defining alternative energy source to include nuclear. Brown was not aware of any, but mentioned other entities that have done zero carbon emission as the basis. Chairman Browne suggested alternative energy refers to low environmental impact and wondered why nuclear doesn't fit that. Sweet suggested proponents would advocate for a tier that would be nuclear power. He pointed out, though, that environmental impacts went beyond just carbon and were addressed through tiers in the law. Place commented on the possibility of broadening to a clean energy standard, which could include nuclear. Sweet and Chairman Browne pointed out the environmental consideration of the “big cave in Nevada.” Chairman Browne commented, however, “We set what's in the portfolio.”

Lastly, Chairman Browne discussed the effort to measure budgeting on an outcomes based system. He asked what the outcomes would be for an agency in a regulatory capacity. The commissioners welcomed the conversation as a part of that effort.

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Senate Appropriations Committee budget hearing with IFO (BH)

2/21/19, 1:00 p.m., Hearing Room One, North Office Building

By Robert Cochran, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee held a budget hearing with the Independent Fiscal Office.

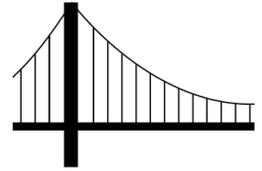
Matthew Knittel, director of the Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) was joined by Deputy Director Brenda Warburton.

Chairman Browne said the two presenters are setting a good foundation on understanding Pennsylvania's fiscal direction. The chairman asked about the economic outlook of the commonwealth, and indicated the General Assembly, along with the governor, tried to manage fiscal affairs within Pennsylvania's means. Chairman Browne said there were concerns regarding the “general macro forecast” of Pennsylvania's economic condition, indicating that Pennsylvania's gross domestic product (GDP) and consumer spending decreased, while inflation increased. The chairman asked what was the testifiers' general thoughts regarding Pennsylvania's fiscal condition and what the commonwealth should plan for. Knittel indicated, for the United States and Pennsylvania, there would be a “general slowdown in economic growth.” He indicated that Pennsylvania's GDP would decrease to two percent, along with a partial slowdown in wages, economic investments and the housing market. Knittel said he would not call the slowdown a recession. “When things are operating at full capacity, Pennsylvania could expect real GDP of about 2 percentage points,” he said, adding that for 2020, growth would remain around 1.5 percent. Knittel said the slowdown could create “outside implication” for General Fund revenues.

Chairman Browne asked if the preliminary estimate for the next budget cycle should include these assumptions. Knittel indicated that the preliminary figures assume “a very modest slowdown,” but not a huge one. Chairman Browne asked Knittel if he expects the upcoming budget's income projection to be more conservative than estimated. Knittel said the final payment in April would decide that, but January's payment fell short of projections, creating concerns.

Knittel said Internal Revenue Service tax refunds were down about 10 percent, potentially creating a “psychological effect” on the economy. He said that Pennsylvania usually expects \$14 billion in tax refunds, and that 80 percent of residents did not adjust their withholding.

Sen. Blake, minority chairman of the Finance Committee, asked if the IFO could fiscally handle the legislature's demands



regarding pension review and performance-based budgeting. For the upcoming year, Knittel said, the office “will be bumping against our appropriation,” but the IFO would have sufficient funds because of savings from previous years.

Sen. Blake asked about combined reporting tax policy. Knittel said the IFO examined that previously during analysis of revenue proposals and they would be updating the legislature in the near future. Sen. Blake asked about if population growth from migration away from a high-cost to a low-cost market to still be true. Knittel said the dynamic is still true and would be the only way for Pennsylvania to experience a population growth.

Sen. Phillips-Hill asked about the governor’s budget pulling in revenue from special funds. She said last year the IFO office noted \$9.4 billion in special funds. She asked would it be possible to use those funds and what is the common practice among other states in using similar funds. Knittel said the IFO could provide an update on that analysis. Regarding other states, he said he is not aware of the reliance of other states with pulling funding from special funds. He said the IFO could look into that request. Sen. Phillips-Hill asked if other budgets from other states, like Florida, would have comparable amounts. He indicated the IFO would look into those issues.

Sen. Schwank said the governor’s administration estimated \$120 million in additional revenues by raising the minimum wage with most increases coming from the income and sales tax. She asked if the IFO agreed with that assessment. Knittel said that the higher wage would increase economic growth and GDP. He estimated that the increase in the wage would create an additional \$40 million in sales and income tax, but the office would revise that based on new data and studies. Sen. Schwank said that was a huge difference in estimates and hopefully the commonwealth could figure out how to proceed.

Regarding the population and potential economic decline, Sen. Schwank asked how the opioid crisis impacts the economic climate. Knittel said the opioid crisis impacts labor force participation, with a particular drop-off in males ages 25-55. He said it was “noticeable decline” and also was attributed to tight labor markets.

Sen. Schwank asked if increasing minimum wage would provide stability in the home health care labor market, or are there simply not enough people. Knittel said that in last five years, four sectors generated 40 percent of jobs in the commonwealth: temporary employment services, home health care, social assistance and food and accommodations. He indicated those sectors provided lower paying wages, and that the 40 percent growth is due to the aging demographic.

Sen. Mensch said regardless of an economic slowdown, the commonwealth is always 14-16 percent behind the national data. He asked if the tax policy fitting the rest of the nation and asked how to get working people to stay or come here. Knittel said that was a significant challenge and that the commonwealth is in the same predicaments as a decade ago, although there has been less than outflow to other states. He indicated that growth should lift per capita income levels by attracting people or businesses. Knittel said economic development incentives should be holistic.

Sen. Mensch said despite job training, wages are not lifting people in the bottom end into better paying jobs. Sen. Mensch asked about the temporary employment trend. Knittel said there is a trend occurring in temporary agencies, but could not find a reason why. Sen. Mensch asked about the IFO’s impression on performance based budgeting process. Knittel viewed the first year as successful, providing the foundation regarding data and agencies, but more outcome based measures and benchmarks would be expected. Warburton indicated that five Pennsylvania agencies went through the process to provide an alternative view of the budget and give legislators input on the benefit of different funding levels. Sen. Mensch agreed that it was successful.

With regards to the governor’s budget and the rate of spending, Sen. Langerholc asked about the assumed rate of revenue growth for 2019-2020 in comparison to the governor’s budget. Knittel said the IFO has a General Fund growth rate 2.9 percent. He indicated, without the policy money from extra transfers and increased minimum wage, the governor projects a growth rate of 2.8 percent. Knittel described the growth rate “cautiously optimistic” and said the office would revisit the projection on May 20. Sen. Langerholc asked about online sales growth and asked if that would increase in the future. Knittel said the IFO indicated \$580 million from internet sales tax for the current year, and \$670 million next year



once more provision goes into effect.

Sen. Scavello said he was concerned about the minimum wage increase on first time workers and asked would the IFO examine that issue. Knittel said yes, the IFO would examine the types of workers and businesses affected. Sen. Scavello said despite the governor saying “no new taxes” in his proposed budget he provided a tax on health procedures in operating facilities. Sen. Scavello asked if he has heard of that tax. Knittel said assessments increased, but was not sure of broadening the tax base.

Sen. Aument asked how the commonwealth compares in terms of migration, aging and work force productivity, specifically in our region. Knittel said Pennsylvania had a growth rate of 0.1 percent, above both New York and West Virginia, but for the above 65 and below 18 populations, that figure does not change. He said the commonwealth’s school age population is shrinking going forward.

Sen. Aument said it is critical to be mindful of the impact of public policy choices regarding demographic shifts. Sen. Aument asked if any positive economics would occur if laws were changed to conform to the federal tax reform. Knittel said Pennsylvania saw net gain in revenue, even though the commonwealth does not conform to a lot of the federal provisions, including the federal corporate tax rate. Knittel said reform could be done to the better align with the federal tax code for small businesses regarding the Section 179 deduction.

Sen. Vogel asked if there would be more of an economic slowdown in Pennsylvania. Knittel said that in the short term, a 1.5 to 2 percent growth would occur. Sen. Vogel asked if there would be a national slowdown, to which Knittel said yes. Sen. Vogel asked how Pennsylvania compares economically with surrounding states. Knittel indicated in middle of the pack, and that higher education attracts people into the commonwealth, but retaining them is the challenge and having to retain them would be a plus. Knittel said what drives the growth is the fundamental demographics of the state.

Sen. Vogel asked about the impact of video game terminals. Knittel said the IFO did not quantify the impact of the gambling expansion.

Sen. Leach asked how cannabis should be taxed, either through an excise tax or sales tax. Knittel said he did not have recommendation because no analysis was done. Sen. Leach asked about the \$23 million in rainy day funds and asked of the impact on spending that funding more compared to saving it. Knittel said that it could be utilized better and there are tradeoffs to saving it. Sen. Leach discussed using one-time revenue fixes for budget deficits without structural change to the process and asked if there is one tax that would raise revenue but impact economic growth less. Knittel said the best way would be increasing the broadest tax, so either the personal income or sales tax. Sen. Leach asked what would increase the sales tax or income tax have less distortionary impact. Knittel said he did not have that analysis.

Sen. Street asked about the impact of a major capital expenditure on infrastructure. Knittel said the IFO has not conducted a study, but others indicate the multiplier effect of infrastructure spending is higher than others, in both the long and short term. Sen. Street said if the commonwealth would address infrastructure, would those projects create multiplier effect. Knittel said yes, and a larger multiplier effect than other types of spending.

Sen. Santarsiero asked if there has not been a study on the impact on the consequences of Act 89, Pennsylvania’s transportation plan. Knittel said the IFO has not done a study on that. Sen. Santarsiero indicated that increased funding for repairing infrastructure in the commonwealth.

Sen. Santarsiero asked about the specific demographics of migration. Knittel said migration was not predominantly one age group or demographic. Sen. Santarsiero asked about the apparent net gain in migration of age groups between ages 25 and 44. Knittel said that was due to one demographic moving out and another moving in. Sen. Santarsiero asked if that was a birthrate effect and not migration. Knittel agreed.

Sen. Santarsiero asked about the dramatic rate of decline between 2016 and 2017. Knittel said the IFO does not have



information on why that rate existed, but internal census data would soon be available to see why. Sen. Santarsiero asked where people are moving to in Pennsylvania and where people are leaving. Knittel said people are moving into Southeastern Pennsylvania and the Pittsburgh metropolitan area. He added that people are leaving rural parts of the commonwealth.

Sen. Phillips-Hill asked about the interest on money in rainy day funds compared to the interest on money borrowed. She asked that if using saved money would be better instead of inheriting more debt. Knittel said an analysis would be difficult to undertake, but the comparison between using rainy day funds instead of borrowing funds could be a worthwhile comparison. Sen. Phillips-Hill asked about the interest rates of debt and rainy day funds. Knittel said the IFO does keep track of the interest rates, but did not examine the aspect of interest of rainy day funds

Sen. Blake asked if bond rating agencies examine the work of the IFO. Knittel said they have discussed projections with rating agencies. Sen. Blake asked if the IFO has examined how the bond rating overall debt service obligation. Knittel said no. Sen. Blake asked about the impact of the operation tax credit. Knittel said across other states saw an increased by 5 to 8 percent in jobs that were incentivized.

Chairman Browne said the differences between governor's and the IFO's budget analysis provided concern, and understanding the differences was important for the General Assembly. The chairman asked if the IFO would conduct another analysis. Knittel indicated yes because of the minimum wage proposal. Chairman Browne it would be important to see the costs and benefits of the governor's proposal and the effect on commerce in the commonwealth.

Chairman Browne said regarding analysis on tax credits, often studies indicate that the commonwealth would benefit, but the legislature never sees the results directly. Chairman Browne asked for the IFO to examine their method of using special funds for transparency. The majority chairman said the Amazon deal in New York regarding tax incentives should have the commonwealth consider another model because of Washington, DC collecting tax revenue on the deal. Chairman Browne asked of the "refundability" of the tax reform. Knittel said it makes the tax code more simple and easier administratively.

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House Transportation Committee

2/19/19, 12:15 p.m., Room B-31 Main Capitol

By Deborah E. Hannon, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider bills.

Chairman Tim Hennessey (R-Chester) opened the meeting welcoming everyone both old and new to the committee stating that the committee has a bipartisan reputation and they are going to be keeping that in place. They plan to supplement hearings to review proposals with other informational meetings, inviting high level officials from across the state to let everyone know where things stand in the state of Pennsylvania today. He further stated that after today's meeting, the Secretary of the Department of Transportation (PennDOT), Sec. Leslie Richards, will be discussing some of the priorities for the coming session and if time permits, she'll be able to also answer any questions from the committee. Minority Chairman Mike Carroll (D-Luzerne) addressed the committee stating he looks forward to the challenges ahead of them in regards to addressing mass transit issues in the state as well as the highways and bridge program. He concluded by stating, "As important as these measures are today, we have some important challenges that have to be faced some in the short term and some in the two year cycle.

[HB 65 Sankey, Thomas](#) - (PN 69) Act designating a bridge on that portion of State Route 3047 over the South Branch of Blacklick Creek, Blacklick Township, Cambria County, as the Private First Class Steve L. Klosz Memorial Bridge. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 66 Sankey, Thomas](#) - (PN 70) Act designating a bridge on that portion of Peg Run Road, PA Route 240, over the West



Branch of the Susquehanna River, Susquehanna Township, Cambria County, as the United States Army Sergeant Scott O. Henry Memorial Bridge. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as amended**.

[A00079](#) by Hennessey, adds further information on Sergeant Henry. The amendment was unanimously **adopted**.

Rep. Greg Rothman (R-Cumberland) inquired as to the official rank of the marine for which the bridge is being named and wondered if this should be included on the sign in addition to stating he was a sergeant in the army. Research Analyst Elizabeth Sickler stated she believed it was shortened to be able to fit on the actual sign and stated that was all the information she had.

[HB 224 Pickett, Tina](#) - (PN 194) Act designating a portion of Pennsylvania Route 87 along the Sullivan County and Bradford County line as the Specialist Second Class W.H. "Doc" Shoemaker, Jr., Memorial Highway. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as amended**.

[A00078](#) by Hennessey, is a technical amendment. The amendment was unanimously **adopted**.

Rep. Tina Pickett (R-Bradford) thanked Rep. Hennessey, the committee and the staff. She continued that she was honored to be able to bring this bill up to honor a gentleman often referred to as "Doc." She stated that anyone that has a residency in Sullivan County knew Doc Shumaker. "Doc was a WWII vet who had some very special assignments in WWII that were classified for a long time. He then became a veterinarian as well as a science teacher and his true love was owning the newspaper in Sullivan County where he used this to promote Sullivan County."

[HB 277 Owlett, Clint](#) - (PN 251) Act designating a bridge on that portion of Pennsylvania Route 14 over Fall Brook, Troy Borough, Bradford County, as the Troy Area Veterans Memorial Bridge. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 374 Everett, Garth](#) - (PN 347) Amends Titles 27 (Environmental Resources) and 75 (Vehicles), in Title 27, adding a chapter providing for Keystone Tree Fund; and, in Title 75 in registration of vehicles, providing for contributions to the Keystone Tree Fund. The department may expend money from the fund for the purposes and in the allocations as follows: (1) A tree vitalize program, 40%; (2) A riparian forest buffer grant program, 60%. The department shall annually report to the House and Senate Environmental Resources and Energy committees regarding the fund revenues and expenditures in the prior fiscal year and describing the activities, programs and projects which received money from the fund. Contributions to the fund can be made via driver's license renewal or vehicle registration renewal. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Chairman Carroll expressed a very modest concern over the effect this could have on additional funding and where the line is drawn on how the committee says no to future worthy groups coming forth requesting funding. Chairman Hennessey replied that in the future when these types of issues come forth, the committee will keep an eye on all these requests.

[HB 384 Kail, Joshua \(F\)](#) - (PN 354) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in licensing of drivers, further providing for penalties relating to classes of licenses. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Rep. Joshua Kail (R-Beaver) thanked the chairman for placing the bill on the agenda and noted that last session the proposal carried unanimously and he is very appreciative of the consideration. After the voting meeting, the committee held an informational hearing with Sec. Richards.

Sec. Richards began by introducing herself and recognizing members of her team that were present before discussing the impending statewide storm. She commented that more information on possible restrictions and reduced speeds will be provided later in the day.

She continued by remarking on the bills that were voted on in the prior committee voting meeting regarding bridge names,



noting that naming bridges after a person is an important way to show appreciation. She added that there is a lack of bridges being named after women and encouraged the committee to consider naming more bridges after female veterans. She also thanked the committee for their efforts in improving construction zone safety, explaining that they have lost over 91 employees, which is more than the State Police have lost. She stated that it is dangerous work, and she pointed to the committee's efforts as important steps towards providing additional safety for PennDOT employees and contractors. Additionally, she identified autonomous and connected vehicles as another effort towards protecting PennDOT employees.

Sec. Richards discussed potholes, commenting that this is "a tough season" for potholes. She explained that the department is currently addressing whatever potholes they can and encouraged everyone to notify the department of any major potholes that need attention. She identified the phone number for notifying the department of potholes and stated that only the most severe potholes will be addressed until warmer weather.

Sec. Richards continued by highlighting the budget, stating that the department is short on funding. She noted that while [Act 89 of 2013](#) was a vital source of necessary funding, it only covered \$2.4 billion of the needed \$7.2 billion. She warned that transit, [Act 44 of 2007](#), transportation for the disabled, and Amtrak as some areas that will be affected by the underfunding. Noting that she plans to go further into detail in an upcoming budget hearing, she reiterated that legislators and their constituents will be impacted by the department's lack of funding.

Sec. Richards addressed interstate funding, asserting that the department is \$1.5 billion short of needed funding. She remarked that she had expected the federal government to step in and added that the last time the federal government assisted the department was in 1993. She affirmed that transportation is an integral part of Pennsylvania and she warned, "We cannot let them fall further behind or deteriorate anymore. We must direct investment to them." Sec. Richards noted that future discussions will go further into the details of interstate funding and handling the 500,000 cars that use the turnpike daily.

Chairman Hennessey expressed that Pennsylvania has 40,000 miles of state highways, which is larger than a number of neighboring states combined. He identified the care of these highways as a "monumental task." Sec. Richards noted that Pennsylvania has the fifth largest network of roadways in the country, the third largest for bridges, and the largest for railroads. She listed additional areas of transportation in Pennsylvania that require attention and highlighted that they are all part of a huge network that requires a lot of work.

Rep. Jim Marshall asked about exemptions for first responders and maintenance workers repairing energy lines during snow storm restrictions. Sec. Richards responded that exemptions are provided for first responders and maintenance workers. She noted that some waivers and exemption requests that the department receives are from businesses who are worried about falling behind on their business. The department monitors any restrictions, she explained, and they aim to lift restrictions as soon as possible. Commending the communication process of the Incident Command Center, she illustrated that communication takes place between neighboring states, police, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the National Guard. She noted that the department will continue to have meetings to improve their process in regard to storm restrictions.

Rep. Rothman queried about issuing citations for truckers when restrictions are not necessary. He asserted, "I believe that the public loses confidence in government when we don't use common sense." He continued by asking if the tickets were necessary and if additional guidance can be provided to the State Police. Sec. Richards cautioned that backups can result from truckers being on corridors during inclement weather and stated that since restrictions meant being on the road was illegal for the truckers, she believed the State Police did the correct thing in the situation. Even if the roadways look safe, she continued, it is important for the truckers to take a look at the restriction in place during that time. She added that the department plans to meet to address protocols during restrictions and identified the process as a balancing act.

Rep. Sara Innamorato (D-Allegheny) asked about regions development and bringing in revenue through investment in transportation. Sec. Richards answered that a study on the future of transportation done with Massachusetts and



the Transportation Research Board revealed that despite the wide range of possibilities for future transportation, full investment remained the most important factor. Without transit, she commented, it leads to congestion. Pointing to her role on both the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh teams aiming to attract Amazon's HQ2 search, she noted that transit was an important factor that was considered by the company. She further explained that many businesses and employers consider transportation when looking at states to move to, and investing in transportation will attract businesses. She also highlighted the environment and jobs from capital projects as other parts of transportation investment and economic development.

Chairman Hennessey closed by remarking that he wishes to learn more about potholes and prioritization. Sec. Richards responded that she is happy to explain the process in further detail.

- 30 -

House Consumer Affairs Committee

2/19/19, 12:00 p.m., Irvis Office Building Room G-50

By Aaron Rider, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee held an informational hearing with officials from the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC), Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA), and Pennsylvania Office of Small Business Advocate (OSBA).

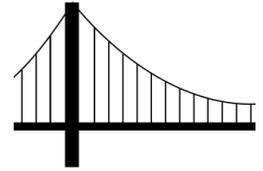
PUC Chairman [Gladys M. Brown](#) shared that the PUC consists of 516 employees who complete the agency's mission of providing "key public safety, consumer protection, and quality of service regulatory oversight responsibilities" by overseeing over 9,000 entities in Pennsylvania. The commission's budget totals, she said, approximately \$80 million, including \$5 million in federal funding. Most of the remaining \$75 million, per Brown, comes from assessments and fees paid by jurisdictional public utilities and electric and natural gas suppliers. She stated that at the end of each fiscal year the PUC does not have money left over.

Brown pointed to "realizing savings for utility customers" as an "acute focus" for her agency, a fact she said was highlighted by three audits and four management efficiency investigations performed by the PUC's Audits Bureau in the 2017-18 fiscal year. "Through proceedings commenced by this commission," she added, "We are pleased to convey that natural gas, electric, and water/wastewater utility rates now reflect tax savings in excess of \$380 million annually, while an investigation into the effects of the tax act on incumbent local exchange telephone companies remains pending."

Brown mentioned cybersecurity as an area where the PUC is vigilant, and said it has hired a director for a newly formed Office of Cybersecurity, Compliance and Oversight to "strengthen PUC systems and explore strategies to strengthen utility cybersecurity protocols." This, said Brown, is in tandem with a similar contemporary approach across Pennsylvania and federal government agencies.

Regarding legislative priorities, Brown said the PUC seeks legislative changes to the assessment language in the Public Utility Code, language that limits the amount the commission can assess utilities for funding the PUC's budget. She shared the PUC's hope to raise the cap from three-tenths of one percent of total gross operating revenues to five-tenths of one percent. She said that there has been a continuous increase in expenses for contractual salary obligations and fringe benefits, and this increase is the reason why the PUC's long-term budget is challenging its legislatively-designated assessment cap.

In the area of transportation, Brown said that the PUC's regulatory oversight includes taxis, transportation network companies, property carriers, limousines, and charter carriers. However, Brown related that the PUC's largest emphasis is on the regulation of railroad lines. Pennsylvania's railroad lines are, said Brown, being used more and more for the transportation of petroleum-based commodities, which presents challenges especially to PUC goals of "fostering of safe railroad crossings and the elimination of rail incidents caused by human factors." Brown stated that the PUC's large amount of activity in the railroad area will grow in the future.



Brown said the PUC employs 15 gas safety inspectors who monitor over 47,000 miles of distribution lines and over 1,100 miles of intrastate transmission lines. Although a recent federal audit was very positive, Brown said that Pennsylvania's gas lines consist in large part of at-risk pipe. Brown related that the PUC has approved several long-term infrastructure improvement plans for this concern.

Through direct interactions with FERC and PJM, Brown said, the PUC participates in arenas of electric power generation. Regarding the possible decommissioning of nuclear power plants in Pennsylvania, Brown stated the PUC's commitment to being a resource of information for the General Assembly.

In telecommunications, Brown said the PUC is dedicated to helping Pennsylvanians gain and retain affordable and competent broadband and phone services. She pointed out that that statutory requirements for broadband speed are outdated, but the PUC continues to enforce them as mandated by legislation. Brown mentioned Rep. Pam Snyder (D-Greene) as being particularly interested in gaining better broadband services for her constituents.

As for water, Brown said that water supplies are challenged by outdated infrastructure, including pipes that are over 60 years old. She said that [Act 12 of 2016](#) has improved investor opportunities to buy outdated municipal water and wastewater systems by expanding valuation systems.

Lastly, Brown said that the PUC has moved considerably in dealing with its newly received regulatory authority over the Pittsburgh Water Supply Agency (PWSA). She added the caveat, though, that remediation of the PWSA's problems will take time.

In closing, Brown said that her testimony, though not exhaustive, should show the PUC is able to handle its lawful duties.

Minority Chairman Matzie asked for specific details on the PUC's role is in the issue of nuclear power decommissioning. Brown replied that since a 1996 statutory change, the PUC's role is mostly as a "resource" since it has no jurisdiction. She cited the PJM and the Independent Market Monitor as being more directly involved. PUC Commissioner Andrew Place added some "principles" for analyzing when it is viable to subsidize nuclear energy, such as that regulators should tie the subsidies to "plant economics" so that "low-margin" plants are supported, that consumers should be protected, and that environmental necessities are met. He opined that experiences in Illinois, New Jersey, and New York show that a "reasonable package" can be made for nuclear power subsidies.

Rep. Quinn asked why Sunoco's Mariner East pipeline project was given public utility status by the PUC. Brown said she was "very cautious" to answer the question at the time because of the large number of matters in front of the PUC stemming from Sunoco's project, but that she could go into detail at a later date. Rep. Quinn then queried if there will be a remaining life study on Mariner East 1 or 2. Brown again deferred to answer, citing the PUC's "judicial role."

Rep. Quinn next asked what the relationship is between the PUC, FERC, and PHMSA (Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration). PUC Commissioner John Coleman said the relationship is a "partnership" between PUC and PHMSA where PUC provides oversight over intrastate lines in Pennsylvania on behalf of PHMSA, while PUC provides comments and testimony to various FERC proceedings.

Chairman Matzie asked Brown for an update on Chapter 66 proceedings. Brown said she was waiting for staff to complete such an update, but that it could be expected in this calendar year.

Rep. Metzgar asked how much of the cost of electric transmissions could be attributed to virtual trading. Brown said she did not have an answer now but could research the question.

Rep. Metzgar next asked what the cost to the consumer would be if gas prices were to go up by a hypothetical amount. Brown said the PUC would have to research the question. Place elaborated that he would be happy to do the modeling necessary to answer such a question.



Acting Consumer Advocate [Tanya McCloskey](#) testified that the OCA is an agency established by the legislature in 1976 to represent consumers before the PUC and other bodies that regulate the state's public utilities, by providing consumers with lawyers and expert witnesses they may otherwise lack. She explained that the PUC cannot handle this job itself because it is a judicial body that must balance the interests of both utilities and consumers. In addition to litigation duties, McCloskey said the OCA helps to educate consumers. It also attempts, she said, to educate legislators on how proposed legislation would affect consumers in Pennsylvania.

McCloskey mentioned several legislative priorities, starting with the necessity of preserving default services for consumers. She also said the OCA wants to protect consumers from the proliferation of "abusive sales and marketing practices." McCloskey encouraged the legislature to consider statutorily addressing some of the marketing practices. Related, she said, the OCA would like to see more protections for low income consumers. McCloskey also emphasized that legislative requirements for broadband speed are outdated, and argued the General Assembly should consider changing them.

Water and wastewater companies in Pennsylvania are, per McCloskey, facing increased costs due to more and more state and federal environmental requirements, as well as health requirements. There are also problems with aging infrastructure and lead service mains, she said. McCloskey urged the legislature to consider consumer protections so these challenges do not unduly burden paying customers.

McCloskey went on to say that the end of 2019 will mark the time for the PUC's five-year report on the implementation of Chapter 14 of the Public Utility Code related to residential utility services. She stated that the information in that report will be critical to determining future changes or updates.

She further said that community solar development in the state is currently restricted by law. "In my view," opined McCloskey, "Community solar, if accompanied by appropriate consumer protections, can provide benefits to all consumers and particularly to consumers in lower income communities who may not be able to afford individual rooftop solar. Consideration should be given to this topic and the necessary consumer protections."

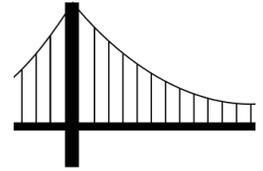
As far as nuclear power plant issues, McCloskey said that her main concern is that the use of competitive wholesale markets not be impeded or harmed by any changes to nuclear policy.

In relation to default services, Chairman Roae asked what percentage of customers actually choose a different service. McCloskey said the number fluctuates for residential customers but has varied between 25 percent and 40 percent. She said most industrial and commercial customers choose alternative suppliers. Chairman Roae says he frequently hears constituent complaints about sudden and drastic price increases and what wondered what causes them. McCloskey answered that sometimes customers are not informed that introductory prices are not the same as the long-term price. Also, she said there are variable rate contracts that vary at the discretion of the electric power generator.

Rep. Bullock mentioned that a press conference was held today introducing [HB 531](#) and asked McCloskey if she had been able to read the legislation. McCloskey said she had not yet seen this bill but that she looks forward to reviewing it.

Rep. Davis asked if the OCA only looks at items under the PUC. McCloskey said this was correct. Rep. Davis asked if this means the OCA does not look at municipal sewage lines and the like. McCloskey said this also was correct.

Summarizing his written testimony, Small Business Advocate [John R. Evans](#) said the OSBA anticipates a continuously high level of activity before the PUC and thus before the OSBA. Evans said the OSBA plans on remaining vigilant in ensuring that new commonwealth policies will assist small business owners. He stated that the OSBA, which does not receive any money from the General Fund, was created to be Pennsylvania's independent fulltime, specialist law firm designated with protecting the rights of small business consumers who rely on regulated utility services that are under the purview of the PUC. Recognizing the large number of changes in the state's utility landscape, the OSBA, said Evans, is dedicated to ensuring that small businesses are never made to pay more than their "fair share." OSBA legal proceedings, he said, involve electric, gas, telephone, water, wastewater, and steam utilities attempting to increase rates or tariffs to the potential detriment of small businesses. Evans said the OSBA engages legally whenever necessary to stop undue increases.



Chairman Roae asked which utility the OSBA most frequently gets involved with in its duties. Evans joked, "It depends on the year," but said that gas and water are the "big ones," especially now that the state has become involved with PSWA issues.

Chairman Matzie requested an official OSBA definition of a small business. Evans said it varies from utility to utility, but the general number is 250 employees or less.

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House Appropriations Committee

02/20/2019, 11:30 a.m. Room 245 Main Capitol

By Robert Cochran, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider legislation.

[HB 26 Snyder, Pam](#) - (PN 41) Amends the Automobile Lemon Law, adding motorcycles to the definition of a new motor vehicle. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Bullet.in.Points

No Bullet.in.Points this week.

Cosponsor Memos

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| HCO1228 | Irvin, Rich(R) | Designates a portion of State Route 305 in Huntingdon County as the Private Harold E. Jim Knode Memorial Bridge. |
| HCO1231 | Murt, Thomas(R) | Requires schools to annually provide educational information regarding eating disorders to parents with children in 5th-12th. |
| HCO1233 | Donatucci, Maria(D) | Increases a seatbelt violation from a secondary to a primary offense when it occurs on a highway. |
| HCO1238 | Murt, Thomas(R) | Amends the Human Relations Act and provides for the right to freedom from discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations, and in public transportation for those who use therapy dogs. |
| HCO1244 | Carroll, Mike(D) | Encourages the development of vacant land and buildings owned by airports and leased to industrial or commercial businesses by providing a \$2,100 tax credit to participating businesses for each new full-time job. |
| HCO1249 | Maloney, David(R) | Protects pedestrian plazas and pedalcycle lanes by requiring that vehicles parking along a curbside bike lane must park parallel with their right-hand or left-hand wheels within 12 inches of the outside line of the buffer area. |
| HCO1259 | Murt, Thomas(R) | Eliminates legislative license plates. |
| HCO1269 | Roae, Brad(R) | Abolishes state paid vehicles to legislators. |
| HCO1272 | Kortz, Bill(D) | Outlines provisions for following a school bus. |



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.

Bill History:

02-20-19 H Set on the House Calendar
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)

[HB 65](#) [Sankey, Thomas\(R\)](#)

(PN 69) Act designating a bridge on that portion of State Route 3047 over the South Branch of Blacklick Creek, Blacklick Township, Cambria County, as the Private First Class Steve L. Klosz Memorial Bridge. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

02-20-19 H Set on the Tabled Calendar
02-20-19 H Removed from the table
02-21-19 H Set on the House Calendar
02-21-19 Second consideration 11:43am
02-21-19 H Rereferred to House Appropriations

[HB 66](#) [Sankey, Thomas\(R\)](#)

(PN 542) Act designating a bridge on that portion of Peg Run Road, Pennsylvania Route 240, over the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, Susquehanna Township, Cambria County, as the United States Army Sergeant Scott O. Henry Memorial Bridge. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 70)

Bill History:

02-20-19 H Set on the Tabled Calendar
02-20-19 H Removed from the table
02-21-19 H Set on the House Calendar
02-21-19 Second consideration 11:43am
02-21-19 H Rereferred to House Appropriations

[HB 224](#) [Pickett, Tina\(R\)](#)

(PN 543) Act designating a portion of U.S. Route 220 along the Sullivan County and Bradford County line as the T.W. "Doc" Shoemaker Memorial Highway. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 194)

Bill History:

02-21-19 Laid out for discussion 11:44am
02-21-19 H 1 Floor amendment(s) adopted
02-21-19 Second consideration 11:45am
02-21-19 H Over in House
02-21-19 H Rereferred to House Appropriations



[HB 277](#) [Owlett, Clint\(R\)](#)

(PN 251) Act designating a bridge on that portion of Pennsylvania Route 14 over Fall Brook, Troy Borough, Bradford County, as the Troy Area Veterans Memorial Bridge. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

02-20-19 H Set on the Tabled Calendar
02-20-19 H Removed from the table
02-21-19 H Set on the House Calendar
02-21-19 Second consideration 11:45am
02-21-19 H Rereferred to House Appropriations

[HB 374](#) [Everett, Garth\(R\)](#)

(PN 347) Amends Titles 27 (Environmental Resources) and 75 (Vehicles), in Title 27, adding a chapter providing for Keystone Tree Fund; and, in Title 75 in registration of vehicles, providing for contributions to the Keystone Tree Fund. The department may expend money from the fund for the purposes and in the allocations as follows: (1) A tree vitalize program, 40%; (2) A riparian forest buffer grant program, 60%. The department shall annually report to the House and Senate Environmental Resources and Energy committees regarding the fund revenues and expenditures in the prior fiscal year and describing the activities, programs and projects which received money from the fund. Contributions to the fund can be made via driver's license renewal or vehicle registration renewal. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

02-19-19 H First consideration
02-19-19 H Laid on the table
02-20-19 H Set on the Tabled Calendar
02-20-19 H Removed from the table
03-11-19 H Set on the House Calendar

[HB 384](#) [Kail, Joshua \(F\)\(R\)](#)

(PN 354) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in licensing of drivers, further providing for penalties relating to classes of licenses. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

02-20-19 H Set on the Tabled Calendar
02-20-19 H Removed from the table
02-21-19 H Set on the House Calendar
02-21-19 Second consideration 11:45am
02-21-19 H Rereferred to House Appropriations



[HB 523](#) [Day, Gary\(R\)](#)

(PN 517) Amends the General Road Law further providing for repair of private roads by stipulating that in the absence of a written agreement or if the private road is a part of a planned community under 68 Pa.C.S. (relating to real and personal property), when more than one person enjoys a common benefit from a private road, each person shall contribute in proportion to the amount of private road owned to the cost of maintaining the private road and shall have the right to bring a civil action to enforce this requirement. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

02-13-19 H Filed
02-19-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Local Government

[HB 529](#) [Jozwiak, Barry\(R\)](#)

(PN 522) Amends Titles 51 (Military Affairs) and 74 (Transportation), in Title 51 in Department of Military Affairs, adding that the department shall be a liaison and provide administrative support for the Civil Air Patrol; and, in Title 74 in authority of Department of Transportation, repealing provisions providing for authority of department. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

02-13-19 H Filed
02-19-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Prepared.

[HB 539](#) [Bizzarro, Ryan\(D\)](#)

(PN 530) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in licensing of drivers, adding to the membership of the Medical Advisory Board one certified driving rehabilitation specialist. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

02-14-19 H Filed
02-19-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

[HB 556](#) [Kauffman, Rob\(R\)](#)

(PN 555) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in registration of vehicles, providing for special farmland preservation registration plate and for the use of a portion of the fee for the plate. The bill establishes that upon application of any person, accompanied by a fee of \$35 which shall be in addition to the annual registration fee, the department shall issue to the person a special farmland preservation registration plate. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

02-19-19 H Filed
02-20-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation



[HB 562](#)

[Bullock, Donna\(D\)](#)

(PN 561) Amends Titles 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) and 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in sentencing, further providing for payment of court costs, restitution and fines, for fine and for failure to pay fine; in licensing of drivers, further providing for suspension of operating privilege for failure to respond to citation; and, in penalties and disposition of fines, further providing for inability to pay fine and costs. The bill establishes that a defendant shall be considered to experience manifest hardship if any of the following apply: the defendant is involuntarily unemployed; the defendant's household income is less than 200 percent of the Federal poverty level; the defendant is receiving any kind of public assistance; and the defendant presents evidence to the judge that would cause a reasonable person to believe paying the full amount of the penalty would cause manifest hardship. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

02-19-19 H Filed
02-20-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Judiciary

[HB 580](#)

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

Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in registration of vehicles, providing for contributions for sexual offense evidence testing and establishing the Sexual Offense Evidence Testing Account.

Bill History:

02-21-19 H Filed



[SB 151](#)

[Hughes, Vincent\(D\)](#)

(PN 265) The General Appropriation Act of 2019 provides appropriations from the General Fund for the expenses of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Departments of the Commonwealth, the public debt and the public schools for the fiscal year July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019; to provide appropriations from special funds and accounts to the Executive and Judicial Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019; to provide for the appropriation of Federal funds to the Executive and Judicial Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019; and to provide for the additional appropriation of Federal and State funds to the Executive and Judicial Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018. Effective July 1, 2019, or immediately, whichever is later.

Bill History:

02-19-19 S Filed
02-19-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Appropriations

[SB 160](#)

[Hughes, Vincent\(D\)](#)

(PN 274) Act appropriating from the Philadelphia Taxicab and Limousine Regulatory Fund (\$2,118,000) and the Philadelphia Taxicab Medallion Fund (\$275,000) to the Philadelphia Parking Authority for fiscal year July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020. Effective July 1, 2019 or immediately, whichever is later.

Bill History:

02-19-19 S Filed
02-19-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Appropriations

[SB 166](#)

[Hughes, Vincent\(D\)](#)

(PN 280) The Capital Budget Act of 2019-2020 provides for the capital budget for the fiscal year 2019-2020. Appropriates the following amounts: building and structures (\$1,100,000,000); furniture and equipment (\$20,000,000); transportation assistance projects (\$350,000,000); redevelopment assistance projects (550,000,000); flood control projects (\$0) Effective July 1, 2019, or immediately, whichever is later.

Bill History:

02-19-19 S Filed
02-19-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Appropriations



[SB 167](#)

[Hughes, Vincent\(D\)](#)

(PN 281) The Capital Budget Project Itemization Act of 2019-2020 provides for the capital budget for fiscal year 2019-2020; itemizing public improvement projects, furniture and equipment projects (\$411,005,000) and redevelopment assistance projects leased or assisted by the Department of General Services and other State agencies (\$75,000,000), together with their estimated financial costs; authorizing the incurring of debt without the approval of the electors for the purpose of financing the projects to be constructed, acquired or assisted by the Department of General Services and other State agencies; authorizing the use of current revenue for the purpose of financing the projects to be constructed, acquired or assisted by the Department of General Services and other State agencies stating the estimated useful life of the projects; and making appropriations. Appropriates the following amounts: public improvement projects itemized for the Department of Agriculture and Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (\$6,866,548,000); and public improvement projects itemized for the Department of Corrections (\$21,000,000). Effective immediately.

Bill History:

02-19-19 S Filed
02-19-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Appropriations

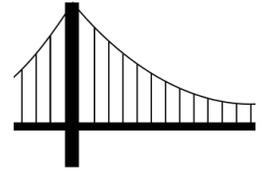
[SB 313](#)

[Baker, Lisa\(R\)](#)

(PN 291) Amends Titles 65 (Public Officers) and 74 (Transportation), in ethics standards and financial disclosure, further providing for definitions, for restricted activities, for statement of financial interests and for penalties; in lobbying disclosure, further providing for definitions, for reporting and for penalties; and, in Turnpike Commission standards of conduct, further providing for code of conduct. The bill establishes that no public official or public employee shall accept or solicit a gift from any of the following: a lobbyist or principal or a person that is seeking official action from the public official or public employee. Any person who intentionally violates the provisions of this involving an amount of \$250 or more commits a felony and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than \$10,000 plus costs or imprisonment for not more than five years, or both. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

02-19-19 S Filed
02-19-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Government



Upcoming Events

Senate Appropriations

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

Press Conference

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

House Appropriations

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

House Democratic Policy Committee

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

PA Public Utility Commission

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

Delaware River Port Authority/PATCO

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

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

PA Turnpike Commission

March 5, 2019 - 10:00 a.m., Turnpike Admin. Bldg, Large Board Room, 700 S. Eisenhower Blvd., 3rd Fl., Middletown
Commission Meeting. For additional information: (717) 831-7333

Delaware River Port Authority/PATCO

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

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

House Appropriations

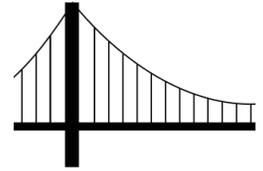
March 6, 2019 - 10:00 a.m., Room 140, Main Capitol
Budget Hearing - Budget Secretary - Office of the Governor/Executive Offices

Senate Appropriations

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

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

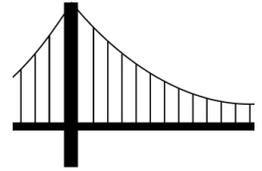
March 14, 2019 - 10:00 a.m., Commonwealth Keystone Building, Hearing Room 1, 400 North St., Harrisburg
Public Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-1740

Joint Legislative Conservation Committee

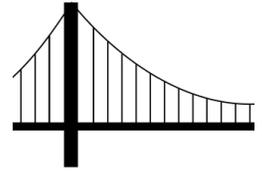
March 19, 2019 - 10:00 a.m., Room 108, Irvis Office Building
Informational meeting on bike tourism initiatives along PA Route 6

In the News

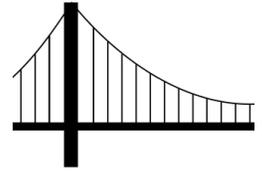
- 02-21-2019 [Allegheny Conference: Power of 32 Site Development Fund Announces Investment...](#)
(Press Release)
- 02-21-2019 [More Vehicle Restrictions Removed at 10:00 PM](#)
(Press Release)
- 02-21-2019 [Speed cameras could reduce deadly accidents on one of Philly's most dangerous roads. Will City Council approve their installation? | Opinion](#)
On Saturday afternoon a two-car crash injured six people on Roosevelt Boulevard and the lives of two families were changed forever. This occurred at the intersection of Roosevelt Boulevard and Whitaker Avenue in my district in the lower Northeast section of Philadelphia.... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 02-21-2019 [PennDOT deems highways safer, although roads icy, schools delayed on morning after storm](#)
The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation removed the speed limit reduction on central Pennsylvania highways early Thursday. But no one was saying there wasn't need for plenty of caution. As temperatures hovered around the freezing mark as dawn approached, early... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 02-21-2019 [Well into winter, PennDOT is still searching for plow drivers](#)
Do you enjoy driving in awful conditions? Do you scoff at people who curl up under a blanket with a mug of hot cocoa when a blizzard rolls into town? Do you have a commercial drivers license? If you answered yes to these questions, PennDOT may have the job for you.... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 02-21-2019 [Traffic worries deferred at proposed resort at former Mary Immaculate seminary](#)
Traffic-related concerns were at the forefront of the first round of approvals by Lehigh Township officials for a planned resort venue at the former Mary Immaculate seminary. Developer David Jandl was granted waivers and deferrals Tuesday related to right of way dedication and road improvements along Indian Trail and... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)



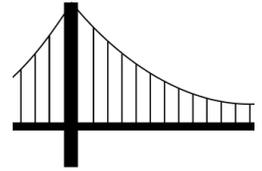
- 02-21-2019 **Expanded network: Rail-Trail extension to connect to Franklin County**
Members of local government, community and Shippensburg University got an early look at a planned extension of the Cumberland Valley Rail-Trail Monday. - [Shippensburg News-Chronicle](#)
- 02-21-2019 **Widow of truck driver files wrongful death lawsuit against employer, others**
A wrongful death lawsuit was filed by the widow of a West Virginia trucker who was killed while driving on Interstate 79 in Greene County. Attorneys filed the lawsuit in federal court on behalf of Gloria A. Snyder of Weston, the executrix of the estate of Michael J. Snyder, 48, of Weston.... - [Washington Observer-Reporter](#)
- 02-21-2019 **Editorial: Better habits among drivers make road safer for all**
The Issue: State and federal officials issue important reminders for motorists. Our Opinion: Following some basic advice can reduce the dangers on American highways. The safety of motorists and their passengers is dependent on each and every driver on the road making sound decisions. It takes only one person who is... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 02-21-2019 **City affected by another snow job**
As the saying goes in the weather business, "abnormal is normal," National Weather Service meteorologist Michael Colbert joked. Altoona received an estimated 5.5 inches of snow by Wednesday afternoon, beating a 1972 NWS co-op site record of 4 inches of snow for Feb. 20.... - [Altoona Mirror](#)
- 02-21-2019 **Amtran plans parking garage**
Amtran is planning to construct an auxiliary garage across Fifth Avenue from its headquarters building to store vehicles and equipment for which it no longer has enough room indoors, because the new compressed natural gas buses are five feet longer than the old buses.... - [Altoona Mirror](#)
- 02-21-2019 **Union calls for strike authorization vote at GE Transportation**
Scott Slawson: "But if we can't reach an agreement, the membership will decide the next step." The courtship between Westinghouse Air Brake Technologies Corp. and its future unionized workforce in Erie has hit a rough patch. On Wednesday, just five days before the scheduled merger of GE... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 02-21-2019 **School bus driver revived with Narcan after crash**
NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Police in New Jersey's largest city used Narcan to revive a school bus driver after her bus, with a dozen children on board, hit a tree... - [AP](#)
- 02-21-2019 **Mom mourns for DUI victim: 'My heart will never heal'**
Early Saturday, Roseann DeRosa texted her daughter Deana Eckman to say she had made her favorite chocolate chip coffee cake for Sunday dessert, to go along with the ravioli and meatballs on the menu for the weekly family dinner. Deana and her husband, Christian "Chris" Eckman, had gone to... - [Primos Delaware County Daily and Sunday Times](#)



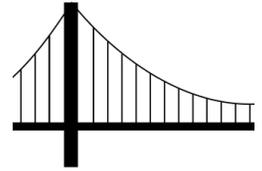
- 02-21-2019 **Several municipalities facing salt shortage**
EBENSBURG – Cambria Township supervisors say they’re one of several local municipalities facing a shortage of salt in the midst of steady winter weather storms as providers are rationing supplies. “We’re in the same boat as everyone else,” Supervisor Tim Bracken said following a township meeting Wednesday night.... - [Johnstown Tribune-Democrat](#)
- 02-21-2019 **Bills gain momentum to honor fallen soldiers**
It’s been more than 75 years since Pfc. Steve Klosz gave his life for his country on a beach turned battlefield in southern Italy. A Blacklick Township High School graduated coal miner, he became the first in his community to lose his life in World War II.... - [Johnstown Tribune-Democrat](#)
- 02-21-2019 **Irked 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](#)
- 02-21-2019 **City hires firm for East Church Street streetscape**
LOCK HAVEN — Lock Haven City Council awarded two contracts, approved a grant-supported purchase and a request from PennDOT at this week’s meeting. Council approved the grant-supported engineering design for the East Church Street streetscape project. Bids for the project were requested in... - [Lock Haven Express](#)
- 02-21-2019 **Will California’s bullet train be derailed by a waffling governor and a petty president?**
A little over a decade ago, when California’s bullet train was still a dream on paper, its backers promised that the nation’s first true high-speed rail system would transform the way we travel and yield significant economic rewards for the state. They laid out a vision of... - [Los Angeles Times](#)
- 02-21-2019 **Newsom can thank Trump for saving him from his high-speed rail flub**
Gov. Gavin Newsom tripped on high-speed rail and fell flat. Then President Trump rode to the rescue and picked him up. Trump, after all, is the Democratic Party’s best friend in California. Only 36% of the state’s likely voters approved of the president’s job performance in a January poll by the Public Policy Institute of... - [Los Angeles Times](#)
- 02-21-2019 **PennDOT, state police highlight traffic law updates, importance of highway safety**
To reinforce the importance of specific state laws, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) Secretary Leslie Richards and Acting Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) Commissioner Robert Evanchick urge drivers to review and obey driver safety laws that were recently updated and impact... - [Connellsville Daily Courier](#)



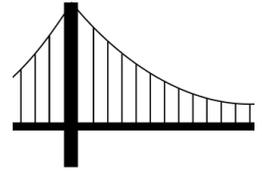
- 02-21-2019 **DeWine proposing 18-cent increase in state gas tax, generating \$1.2 billion**
Gov. Mike DeWine will propose an 18-cents a gallon increase in the gasoline tax to maintain and upgrade Ohio's roads and bridges in the transportation budget he submits to lawmakers Thursday. That would amount to a 64 percent increase in the state's current 28-cent gas tax, which the state transportation director has said is... - [Columbus Dispatch](#)
- 02-21-2019 **A mileage tax for non-gasoline vehicles? Oregon plan mentioned as possibility**
Ohio lawmakers may one day have other transportation revenue options besides a gas tax, but that day doesn't appear to be in the near future. Thursday, Gov. Mike DeWine will propose raising the state's 28-cent gas tax by 18 cents, and lawmakers have been asking whether alternatives exist.... - [Columbus Dispatch](#)
- 02-21-2019 **DeWine wants entire 18-cent gas-tax hike imposed at once**
Gov. Mike DeWine is proposing that the entirety of his requested 18-cents-a-gallon increase in the gasoline tax to maintain and upgrade Ohio's roads and bridges be imposed all at once on July 1. Prior increases in the gas tax have been phased over a few of years. In his... - [Columbus Dispatch](#)
- 02-21-2019 **TSA has caught average of one gun a week at BWI Marshall Airport this year — more than 1/3 last year's total**
A handgun was found in a Maryland man's luggage in a security screening at BWI Marshall Airport this weekend — the eighth gun found at the airport in the first eight weeks of the year, according to the Transportation Security Administration. The number of guns caught at the Linthicum airport in 2019 is more than... - [Baltimore Sun](#)
- 02-21-2019 **M, F or X: Democratic senator's bill would allow gender-neutral option for Maryland driver's licenses**
A bill is moving forward in the Maryland General Assembly that would give state residents a third option for gender on a driver's license or identification card: "unspecified." The measure is meant to be inclusive to people who consider themselves "nonbinary," or not identifying as either male or female.... - [Baltimore Sun](#)
- 02-21-2019 **A US Airways airport no more? New vision unveiled for Pittsburgh's airport**
A rolling roof, lots of natural light, more concessions, and separate levels — one for departures and one for arrivals. They're all part of the conceptual design unveiled Wednesday for the new \$1.1 billion terminal that will be built at Pittsburgh International... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-21-2019 **Pittsburgh challenges Norfolk Southern's plans to add new route for double-stacked rail cars**
Pittsburgh is intervening to challenge Norfolk Southern's plans to alter three North Side bridges to establish a second route for double-stacked rail cars. The city Thursday morning released copies of a letter and a protest it filed with the state Public Utility Commission this week. The commission is... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)



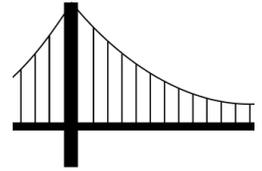
- 02-21-2019 **What to do with Wertzville Road? Officials ask residents for input into traffic, building plans**
Hampden Township will ask residents to work in small groups to come up with a vision and tactics to guide the future of Wertzville Road. Wertville Road is also state Route 944. The format will be used during a meeting set for Monday night beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Sporting Hill Station fire house in the township. It comes... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 02-20-2019 **PennDOT Driver License/Photo Centers in Several Counties, Close Early Due...**
(Press Release)
- 02-20-2019 **PennDOT Driver License/Photo Centers in Several Counties, Customer Call...**
(Press Release)
- 02-20-2019 **Gov. Wolf: Pennsylvanians Urged to Limit Travel, Prepare for Complex, Fast...**
(Press Release)
- 02-20-2019 **Corrected: Vehicle Restrictions to be Imposed on Certain Roadways, Motorists...**
(Press Release)
- 02-20-2019 **Non-essential state employees in central Pa. given day off ahead of winter storm**
Many state employees at three government offices have been given the day off as a winter storm draws closer. Non-essential employees under the Governor's jurisdiction working in the Capitol Complex, Harrisburg area and the Reading State Office building are authorized for closure for the full day Wednesday, Feb. 20, according... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 02-20-2019 **Berks DA investigating bad checks issued by Bieber Tourways**
Checks are bouncing from Kutztown-based Bieber Tourways and Lehigh Valley Lines. Berks County District Attorney John T. Adams says his office has opened an investigation into the now-defunct bus and trucking companies. He asks anyone who has had a check returned for insufficient funds from... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 02-20-2019 **Erie County Council: Halt changes that affect LIFT, EMTA**
Council also signed off on two appointments, funding for office renovation and letter of credit for workers' compensation program. Erie County Council joined the growing chorus of elected and public transportation officials by calling on the state to halt changes that would... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 02-20-2019 **PennDOT puts vehicle restrictions in place due to snow, ice forecast**
The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation is urging motorists to monitor weather forecasts for announced vehicle restrictions on certain roads during Wednesday's wintry-mix. With snow and sleet or freezing rain predicted for Wednesday into Thursday morning, PennDOT and the Pennsylvania Turnpike are implementing phased... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)



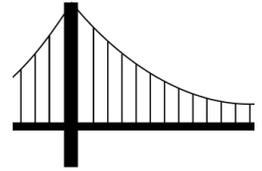
- 02-20-2019 **Lehigh Valley in 'area of highest uncertainty' for Wednesday's storm, under winter weather advisory**
After months of a mostly spiritless winter, the second storm system in just over a week appears poised to hit the Lehigh Valley on Wednesday. Will it be a boom, or will it be a bust? Time will tell, but one thing is certain: what the storm lacks in snowfall it will make up for in overall impact thanks to timing and the expectation... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 02-20-2019 **New England Motor Freight did not provide employees with proper notice before closing, lawsuit claims**
The federal WARN Act, generally speaking, aims to protect workers by requiring employers to provide them with 60-days notice ahead of a closing or mass layoff. That heads-up didn't happen at New England Motor Freight, allege hundreds of the company's employees — including some from the... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 02-20-2019 **PennDOT postpones work on Route 2019**
PennDOT has postponed emergency bridge fascia beam demolition and repair work on Route 2019 (Level/Portage Road) over westbound Route 22 in Cresson Township due to pending winter weather. Prime contractor J.B. Fay Construction Co. of Pittsburgh will complete the... - [Johnstown Tribune-Democrat](#)
- 02-20-2019 **Local fliers want reliable service, airport authority says**
Although more passengers flew from Johnstown last month than any January since 2013, airport officials warned that the honeymoon won't last unless reliability improves. January also saw nearly one in five scheduled flights canceled and nearly 100 with significant delays, according to the Boutique Air report at... - [Johnstown Tribune-Democrat](#)
- 02-20-2019 **PennDOT to implement vehicle restrictions on local roadways beginning Wednesday at noon**
The state Department of Transportation announced vehicle restrictions in preparation for today's forecasted winter storm. The storm will bring 1 to 3 inches of snow and up to one tenth of an inch of ice, with snow moving in late this morning or early afternoon before... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 02-20-2019 **Land once targeted for development added to Marsh Creek State Park**
WALLACE TOWNSHIP— Natural Lands announced that the land conservation organization has purchased and transferred a 57-acre property to Marsh Creek State Park. Located in Wallace Township, Chester County, the land was slated to be developed. Now as part of the State Park, it will be open to the public for hiking,... - [West Chester Daily Local News](#)
- 02-20-2019 **Land once targeted for development added to Marsh Creek State Park**
WALLACE TOWNSHIP— Natural Lands announced that the land conservation organization has purchased and transferred a 57-acre property to Marsh Creek State Park. Located in Wallace Township, Chester County, the land was slated to be developed. Now as part of the State Park, it will be open to the public for hiking,... - [West Chester Daily Local News](#)



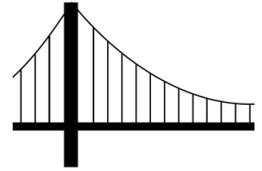
- 02-20-2019 **DeWine supports gas tax hike to raise highway cash — the increase could be big**
Gov. Mike DeWine said Tuesday that he will propose an increase in the gasoline tax — and it could be a sizable one — to fix and improve Ohio’s crumbling roads and bridges. The first-year Republican would not reveal the size of the proposed hike. DeWine told reporters the recommended increase would maintain the status... - [Columbus Dispatch](#)
- 02-20-2019 **Trump Administration Wants California to Pay Back \$2.5 Billion for High-Speed Rail**
A day after California filed a lawsuit challenging President Trump’s emergency declaration on the border, the Transportation Department said it was exploring legal options to claw back \$2.5 billion in federal funds it had already spent on the state’s high-speed rail network.... - [New York Times](#)
- 02-20-2019 **Flight reaches 801 mph as a furious jet stream packs record-breaking speeds**
The jet stream streaks across the country. Tuesday is a nice day across the Northeast. Temperatures near 40 in New York, light winds out of the north at 5 mph to 10 mph, and wall-to-wall sunshine sound like a tranquil day — especially by February standards. But high up in the atmosphere, it’s a different story.... - [Washington Post](#)
- 02-20-2019 **White House says it will seek return of billions in federal funds for California rail line**
California Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) said Feb. 12 that the state won't finish a \$77.3 billion high-speed rail project between San Francisco and Los Angeles. The U.S. Transportation Department said in a letter Tuesday that it plans to cancel about \$929 million in federal grant money for California’s... - [Washington Post](#)
- 02-20-2019 **PennDOT, Pennsylvania Turnpike issue commercial vehicle bans, restrictions**
PennDOT and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission have issued phased vehicle bans and restrictions for Wednesday as a winter storm hits across Pennsylvania. As of 6 a.m. Wednesday, commercial vehicles (including buses) were banned from I-70 in Fulton County, and I-99 from I-80 to the turnpike.... - [Easton Express-Times](#)
- 02-20-2019 **Trump administration to cancel \$929 million in California high-speed rail funding**
The fate of California’s high-speed rail project was cast into further doubt Tuesday when the federal government announced plans to cancel \$929 million in grant funds, a move U.S. officials linked to violations of the grant agreement but some view as political payback.... - [Los Angeles Times](#)
- 02-20-2019 **\$209K spent to board inmates out-of-county**
Wyoming County Commissioners learned Tuesday morning that more than \$200,000 was spent in 2018 to house the county’s inmates outside of the county. During the Prison Board segment of the meeting, county jail warden Ken Repsher noted that the good news was that only three prisoners are still... - [Tunkhannock The New Age Examiner](#)



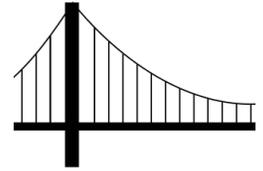
- 02-20-2019 **[Southern Airways embraces partnership with German airline](#)**
MOUNT ALTON — Visiting Europe from Bradford just got much cheaper. Southern Airways Express, the low-fare airline that provides service to Bradford Regional Airport, held a gathering Tuesday evening welcoming a new partnership with Frankfurt, Germany-based Condor airlines.... - [Bradford Era](#)
- 02-20-2019 **[Yaw pushing to incorporate local stream cleaning with Chesapeake Bay efforts](#)**
As frustrations have mounted over stream cleaning following recent flooding, state Sen. Gene Yaw is pushing a plan he hopes could leverage federal Chesapeake Bay clean up efforts along the Susquehanna River watershed to provide funding toward stream cleaning operations.... - [Towanda Daily Review](#)
- 02-20-2019 **[Amtrak modifies Keystone Service due to weather](#)**
NEW YORK (AP) — Amtrak is modifying its Keystone Service between New York and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, because of the impending winter storm... - [AP](#)
- 02-20-2019 **[PennDOT and PA Turnpike set restrictions on I-76, advise caution near snow plows](#)**
PennDOT and the Pennsylvania Turnpike have placed restrictions on some Lancaster County roadways as a forecasted winter storm Wednesday looms. Beginning noon Wednesday, the Pennsylvania Turnpike will prohibit certain vehicles from Interstate 76 at the northernmost end of Lancaster County,... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 02-20-2019 **[New Jersey Declares State Of Emergency Ahead Of Winter Storm](#)**
TRENTON, N.J. (CBS) – New Jersey has declared a state of emergency ahead of the winter storm expected to hit the region. The state of emergency took effect at 5 a.m. Wednesday. The storm is expected to start in the morning and continue throughout the day. Philadelphia Weather: Winter Storm To Drop Snow, Sleet, Freezing Rain... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)
- 02-20-2019 **[How drivers can prepare for an emergency during a winter storm](#)**
PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — AAA is encouraging drivers to be prepared for the worst when out in the snow as they give some tips, tricks, and helpful advice for drivers who find themselves on the roads during the upcoming snow storm. "No one ever plans to get stuck," said Jana Tidwell with AAA.... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)
- 02-20-2019 **[Amtrak modifies service during winter storm](#)**
Due to today's winter storm, Amtrak is operating with a modified schedule for its Keystone Service. Full service will be restored as weather conditions improve, according to Amtrak. The modified Keystone Service for trips between New York, Philadelphia and Harrisburg includes:... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 02-20-2019 **[Snow arrives in Philadelphia: latest on mass transit, closings, other impacts](#)**
Flurries are falling in Center City as a winter storm that is expected to dump two to five inches of snow makes its debut in the Philadelphia - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)



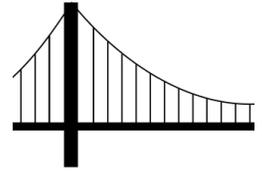
- 02-20-2019 **[A US Airways airport no more? New vision for 'a Pittsburgh airport' unveiled](#)**
This story will be updated. A rolling roof, lots of natural light, and two levels — one for departures and one for arrivals. They're all part of the conceptual design unveiled Wednesday for the new \$1.1 billion terminal that will be built at Pittsburgh International... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-20-2019 **[It's a snow day ... unless you're a student in Pittsburgh Public Schools](#)**
After the weather and poor road conditions prevented students from making it to school on time Wednesday, officials with Pittsburgh Public Schools announced that children who couldn't make it to class will receive an excused absence. The district was one of only a few locally that didn't cancel or delay... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-20-2019 **[Amtrak modifies Keystone Service due to weather](#)**
Amtrak is modifying its Keystone Service between New York and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, because of the impending winter storm... - [AP](#)
- 02-20-2019 **[Winter storm closes schools, snarls travel across much of US](#)**
A sprawling storm closed schools, snarled travel and threatened homeless populations Wednesday with snow and cold stretching from the Midwest to the East Coast and with heavy rain in the South... - [AP](#)
- 02-20-2019 **[Design for \\$1.1 billion Pittsburgh airport remodel unveiled](#)**
Officials say air travelers in Pittsburgh can look forward to faster departures and lots of space to greet loved ones when they return home thanks to a planned \$1.1 billion renovation... - [AP](#)
- 02-20-2019 **[Why U.S. cities are becoming more dangerous for cyclists and pedestrians | Opinion](#)**
As cities strive to improve the quality of life for their residents, many are working to promote walking and biking. Such policies make sense, since they can, in the long run, lead to less traffic, cleaner air and healthier people. But the results aren't all positive, especially in the short to... - [Penn Live](#), [Patriot-News](#)
- 02-20-2019 **[Storm prompts vehicle, speed restrictions on PA turnpike, interstates](#)**
State transportation officials will prohibit some commercial vehicles and all motorcycles and recreational vehicles from a section of the Pennsylvania Turnpike on Wednesday morning as a winter storm could bring a mix of snow, sleet and freezing rain to challenge travelers.... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-20-2019 **[Designs unveiled for \\$1.1 billion Pittsburgh airport terminal](#)**
Airport officials unveiled concept designs Wednesday for a new landside terminal at the Pittsburgh International Airport — a \$1.1 billion overhaul project proposed in 2017. The bright, airy, two-level design was inspired by Pittsburgh's rolling topography. It will feature high ceilings, big windows and lots of greenery... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-19-2019 **[Vehicle Restrictions to be Imposed on Certain Roadways, Motorists Urged to...](#)**
(Press Release)



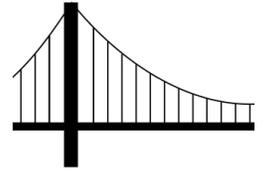
- 02-19-2019 **Lawmaker, residents ask PUC to review Norfolk Southern rail inspections**
People who live along rail lines in the region and state Sen. Wayne Fontana want the state Public Utility Commission to review whether Norfolk Southern responds adequately to its own bridge and track inspections. The residents said in a news release Monday that last year's freight... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-19-2019 **Seen this tractor trailer? Cops believe it may have led to crash critically injuring mom, son on Pennsylvania Turnpike**
Pennsylvania State Police are searching for a white tractor trailer traveling north along the Pennsylvania Turnpike (Interstate 476) at the time of a crash Friday afternoon that has left a mother and her 7-year-old son critically injured. State Police in Pocono Monday also shed a little more light on what led to... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 02-19-2019 **Streetlight project may happen in April**
A citywide streetlight replacement project that has been discussed since 2013 would get underway in early April if council approves financing later this month, Mayor Jeff Cusat said. The city would use a \$200,000 gaming grant it secured shortly after Cusat took office and money it saves from energy efficiencies to pay for the... - [Hazleton Standard-Speaker](#)
- 02-19-2019 **Trans-Bridge proposes adding new bus service to Philadelphia, wants to hear from commuters**
Trans-Bridge Lines is proposing rides from the Lehigh Valley to Philadelphia to supplement existing service following the abrupt closing of Bieber Transportation Group. The Bethlehem bus company posted on social media Monday a proposed Monday-through-Friday schedule for Philadelphia. Spokeswoman Jennifer... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 02-19-2019 **Aging issues in Lehigh Valley highlighted in United Way's 'Day of Action'**
When Carmen Bell worked for LANTA, she would field calls from seniors with concerns about their rides. Many of those same seniors would call her often — sometimes once a week — just to chat, she said. “What I found was that sometimes they wanted to make sure somebody was... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 02-19-2019 **'Bridges not Walls' rally held in East Goshen to protest National Emergency declaration**
EAST GOSHEN—In response to President Donald Trump's Friday declaration of a national emergency at the Mexican border, MoveOn met both locally and nationally to protest. About 140 demonstrators braved cold temperatures, Monday, at East Goshen Township Park, to hear a half-dozen speakers discuss immigration, as part... - [West Chester Daily Local News](#)
- 02-19-2019 **Hatfield board hears update on 309 Connector project**
HATFIELD TWP — As Hatfield Township moves toward work on a long-discussed road project, another is still in the works. Township officials could vote soon to approve the transfer to PennDOT of a right-of-way needed to build the long-discussed Route 309 Connector.... - [Lansdale Reporter](#)



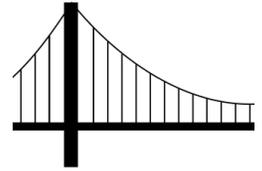
- 02-19-2019 **[Local couple to be part of Ashtabula, Ohio, train wreck documentary](#)**
ASHTABULA, Ohio — A documentary filmmaker said the Ashtabula train disaster of Dec. 29, 1876 is a major historical event that has not gotten a lot of national publicity — until now. Kasey Kirby, owner of Atlas District Productions in Washington D.C., traveled to Ashtabula last month to film and research the disaster,... - [New Castle News](#)
- 02-19-2019 **[Sunbury council to take meetings on the road](#)**
SUNBURY — City Council meetings will move to various locations across Sunbury in the coming months, re-establishing a practice of late Mayor Jesse Woodring. Mayor Kurt Karlovich said Woodring held meetings throughout the city beginning in 2006. "Jesse (Woodring) did this before and he held meetings inside the River... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)
- 02-19-2019 **[Assessing two-way traffic conversions, city residents' interests should come first](#)**
THE ISSUE A study is underway to assess the pros and cons of converting Orange, Church, North Lime and North Duke streets for two-way traffic in the City of Lancaster, Tim Stuhldreher and Hurubie Meko reported in the Feb. 10 edition of Sunday LNP. The one-way streets covered in the study are some of... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 02-19-2019 **[Virginia inexplicably killed a bill that could've helped thousands with suspended licenses](#)**
VIRGINIA'S IMAGE, thanks to the self-inflicted controversies embroiling its top three elected officials, has taken it on the chin lately. So one might have thought — indeed hoped — that the legislative branch would be eager to counter the damage to the commonwealth's reputation... - [Washington Post](#)
- 02-18-2019 **[Linton Hill bridge plans on display in Penn Twp.](#)**
Preliminary plans for replacement of a bridge on Linton Hill Road are available at the Penn Twp. municipal building for public review and comment until Feb. 22. PennDOT plans to replace the masonry arch bridge over Little Juniata Creek next year with a bridge that will be about 10 feet wider. The replacement... - [Penn Live](#), [Patriot-News](#)
- 02-18-2019 **[Parking a problem for growing Freeland](#)**
Downtown Freeland has a parking problem, and there doesn't appear to be an easy solution. Centre Street is the main concern because that's where most of the businesses are or will be. Meters were taken out about three years ago because they were not generating a lot of income for the borough, said... - [Hazleton Standard-Speaker](#)
- 02-18-2019 **[State Rep. Wendy Ullman hears from residents on roads, environment](#)**
Rep. Wendy Ullman, D-143, met with constituents Wednesday afternoon to take questions or comments on local issues in central and upper Bucks County. Potholes and environmental protection seemed to be the major concerns for residents visiting state Rep. Wendy Ullman at her 143rd District office... - [Levittown Bucks County Courier Times](#)



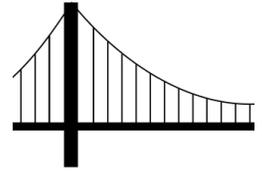
- 02-18-2019 **Kevin Cuneo: Local potholes pale in comparison to damaged roads in Indianapolis**
Kevin Cuneo: Indianapolis contends with more than 4,300 potholes. Erie's potholes are back, which makes driving on area streets challenging. Wild temperature swings in recent months have produced some truly jarring potholes, but Erie pales to the situation in Indianapolis... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 02-17-2019 **Popular Pittsburgh auto show showcases models through Tuesday**
Thousands descended upon the David L. Lawrence Convention Center on Saturday for the Pittsburgh International Auto Show. The annual event runs through Tuesday in Downtown Pittsburgh. Participating this year are 40 manufacturer exhibits, from Acura to Volvo, and dozens of vendors from AAA East Central to WVU Eco Car.... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-17-2019 **Cheers and Jeers**
CHEERS to PennDOT and the state police for being proactive in banning commercial vehicles from interstates during winter storms and stepping up enforcement. The increased safety for drivers is worth the temporary economic impact. JEERS to President Trump for declaring a state of emergency for border wall... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)
- 02-17-2019 **Our View: Local school districts should take close look at transportation**
It almost seems like the educational equivalent of Al Capone finally getting convicted not for all crimes he oversaw as a ruthless Chicago underworld boss, but for failing to pay federal income taxes. If you were going to pick something a school district superintendent could... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)
- 02-17-2019 **Rep. Mullery takes 'One.19' initiative to Hazle Township**
Route 92 in Exeter remains closed due to a water-main break under the road that collapsed a portion of the highway Saturday, according to a PennDOT press release. Due to the extent of the damage, PennDOT says it cannot provide an estimate on when the road might reopen.... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)
- 02-17-2019 **Who pays for vehicle damage from Pa.'s potholes? Probably you**
The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation makes clear on its website that drivers have the right to submit claims for vehicle damage caused by hitting a pothole. A few sentences later, on the same damage claims page, the department makes clear that the state is obligated by law to deny the claims.... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 02-17-2019 **Helping the Amish get around: Driver services supplement buggies in Lancaster County**
What do you do if you're Amish and you need to get somewhere faster and /or further than your horse and buggy can take you? You hire an Amish taxi service. According to a story in Philly.com. "Amish taxis" ferry the Pennsylvania Dutch around, wether for small business or family trips, or... - [Penn Live](#), [Patriot-News](#)



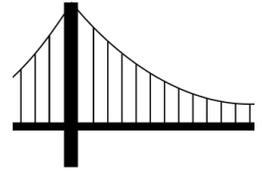
- 02-17-2019 **[‘Missing Link’ no more: \\$670 million plan would widen stretch of Route 322](#)**
When Penn State’s football team plays at home, there is one place that Centre County locals know to avoid and traveling fans dread, a portion of Route 322 that passes from Mifflin to Centre County, a stretch where cars move at a snail’s pace and can line bumper-to-bumper for miles.... - [Penn Live](#), [Patriot-News](#)
- 02-17-2019 **[Bieber's troubled ride was years in making despite attempts to stay in business](#)**
Over the past decade, Bieber Transportation Group broke down — gradually at first and then, suddenly. On Feb. 8, unpaid employees driving uninsured buses were told to abandon customers who had given the company the benefit of the doubt. Among those left scrambling were the Easton Area Middle School ski club that a Bieber... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 02-17-2019 **[Parking tickets in Lancaster: Street-sweeping tickets up despite overall drop in 2018](#)**
Motorists in Lancaster are getting better at feeding the meter when they park, judging from the Lancaster Parking Authority’s statistics for 2018. But moving their vehicles on street-sweeping days? That’s still a work in progress. The authority issued 112,793 total tickets in 2018. That’s down 1.8... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 02-17-2019 **[Trump to Receive Auto Tariff Report, Setting Up Another Fight](#)**
The Commerce Department is expected to submit a report to President Trump in the coming days that could give the United States authority to impose tariffs on foreign cars and car parts on the basis of protecting national security, setting up another potential skirmish with America’s trading... - [New York Times](#)
- 02-17-2019 **[There’s no federal standard on facial recognition. Congress should step in.](#)**
AND THEN there were three. Amazon has joined Microsoft and Google in supporting regulation of facial recognition technology, and it is easy to guess why: Research on bias in the software has amplified public skepticism, and legislators are starting to take note by proposing... - [Washington Post](#)
- 02-15-2019 **[PA Turnpike Commission Meeting Agenda for February 19, 2019](#)**
(Press Release)
- 02-15-2019 **[What’s the value of transit? Study says \\$929 million annual impact from Port Authority](#)**
For years, officials touted the economic benefit of the Port Authority’s transit system, but they had nothing to back up those claims. Now they do. A study by Philadelphia firm eConsult Solutions Inc. shows the agency boosts the value of homes near bus routes and produces a total annual... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-15-2019 **[Pittsburgh would settle for slow-speed rail](#)**
The Green New Deal resolution, introduced by freshman New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, says we need: “Global reductions in greenhouse-gas emissions from human sources of 40 to 60 percent from 2010 levels by 2030; and (get this, Earth fans) Net-zero emissions by 2050.”... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)



- 02-15-2019 **It's official: Strip District produce terminal is getting a \$50M makeover**
Pittsburgh Urban Redevelopment Authority board members cleared the way Thursday for the long-awaited makeover of the historic produce terminal in the Strip District. In 4-0 vote, board members gave permission to Chicago-based McCaffery Interests to start construction on the \$49.5 million project.... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-15-2019 **Landslide-damaged Prospect Road in Baldwin Borough reopens to traffic**
Prospect Road in Baldwin Borough reopened to traffic Thursday following a landslide that shut down the South Hills thoroughfare earlier this week, officials said. A landslide during Tuesday's severe weather conditions prompted Allegheny County Department of Public Works crews to close Prospect Road... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-15-2019 **Sick days force Westmoreland Transit to cancel some Pittsburgh routes due to driver shortage**
Driver shortages that caused Westmoreland County Transit Authority bus routes to be canceled this week are expected to continue for some time and could further disrupt daily schedules, officials said. One outgoing route from Pittsburgh was canceled Thursday, a day after the... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-15-2019 **A \$14 parking meter? Allentown may charge that and more during PPL Center events**
In an effort to encourage arena-goers to use city parking garages rather than street parking, the Allentown Parking Authority has proposed a new rate structure on event nights at parking meters around PPL Center. New details emerged about the plan Wednesday as Allentown City Council... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 02-15-2019 **Work progresses toward 2021 opening of Southern Beltway's middle section**
Construction of the Southern Beltway's middle section is progressing on schedule, with several portions of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission's toll road to be completed by year's end. Route 980 under bridge Harry Funk/The Almanac Traffic on Route 980 in Cecil Township passes under the Southern Beltway... - [Washington Observer-Reporter](#)
- 02-15-2019 **Hollidaysburg ordinance focuses on e-cigarettes**
HOLLIDAYSBURG — Borough Council is set to advertise an ordinance making it a criminal offense for minors to possess electronic cigarettes and vape pens. Police Chief Rodney Estep prepared the language of the ordinance, which the council could approve after a period of public advertisement.... - [Altoona Mirror](#)
- 02-15-2019 **Police honored for efforts on aggressive driving**
TAMAQUA — Five municipal police departments, three of their officers and two Pennsylvania State Police stations were honored Thursday for their efforts on cracking down on aggressive driving. The awards were presented at the Tamaqua Municipal Building by representatives of the state Department of Transportation and the... - [Pottsville Republican and Evening Herald](#)



- 02-15-2019 **Legislative Report: Casey backs bill on paid family leave**
WILKES-BARRE — U.S. Sen. Bob Casey this week announced his co-sponsorship of legislation to ensure paid family and medical leave for workers across the country. Specifically, the Family and Medical Insurance Leave (FAMILY) Act would provide workers with the option to take up to 12 weeks of paid leave,... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)
- 02-15-2019 **PennDOT: Easy to get pre-verified for REAL ID**
HARRISBURG—The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation is reminding customers that they can join more than 140,000 Pennsylvanians who have pre-verified for REAL ID online and at driver license centers statewide. Customers who bring in the required REAL ID documentation to any PennDOT... - [West Chester Daily Local News](#)
- 02-15-2019 **Sen. Mensch helps unveil Leonard Joseph Taglieber Memorial Highway**
PENNSBURG — Sen. Bob Mensch, R-24th Dist., joined the sister and family of Lance Cpl. Leonard Joseph Taglieber to unveil a stretch of Route 29 named in his honor. The official unveiling of Leonard Joseph Taglieber Memorial Highway took place at the intersection of Route 29 (northbound) and Route 663 in... - [Lansdale Reporter](#)
- 02-15-2019 **Local airport to welcome more flights, new jetway soon more flights soon**
The Williamsport Regional Airport is back up to two flights per day after a winter directive from American Airlines limited the airport to one flight daily due to congestion in Philadelphia throughout the holiday season. “That’s over with. As of today, we’re back at two,” ... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)
- 02-15-2019 **MU council members accept PennDOT recommendations**
After reviewing traffic studies conducted by PennDOT, Mount Union officials are acting on the department’s recommendations to restrict parking along the southern end of Division Street (Route 747). - [Huntingdon Daily News](#)
- 02-15-2019 **PennDOT to offer free motorcycle safety clinics**
HARRISBURG — From now through October, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) offers an exciting line of Pennsylvania Motorcycle Safety Program (PAMSP) clinics focusing on developing operator proficiency. The program is free-of-charge to prospective, experienced, and new... - [Lock Haven Express](#)
- 02-15-2019 **Supercars That Will Still Put a Big Dent in Your Wallet but Not Drain It**
If you fell asleep beneath a Lamborghini Countach poster on your bedroom wall or thought Thomas Magnum’s red Ferrari 308 GTS was the best part of the original “Magnum P.I.,” there’s good news: You might be able to afford a new supercar. And you might find it sharing showroom space with a family crossover.... - [New York Times](#)



02-15-2019

Drivers using prescription opioids twice as likely to trigger a fatal crash, study finds

Using opioids appears to double the risk that a driver will trigger a fatal crash, regardless of whether alcohol is in the mix, a new study by researchers at Columbia University has found. The study, which analyzed records for each driver in fatal two-vehicle... - [Washington Post](#)

02-15-2019

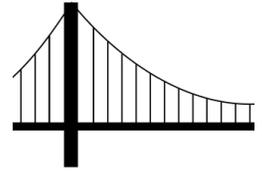
Center City Philadelphia streets closed Sunday due to helicopter equipment lift

Streets on the west side City Hall will be subject to closures Sunday so a helicopter can deliver heavy equipment to a Center City building. The intermittent closures, which will affect both vehicles and pedestrians, are expected to occur between 4 a.m. and 3 p.m., the Streets Department... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

02-15-2019

Turnpike to close for 5 hours Sunday morning between Irwin and Pittsburgh/Monroeville

The Pennsylvania Turnpike will be closed from midnight to 5 a.m. Sunday in both directions between the Pittsburgh/Monroeville and Irwin exits, weather permitting, to remove an overhead bridge. Crews will remove the old bridge that carries Trafford-Murrysville Road... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)



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

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

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