



Transportation Recap

August 16 - 22, 2019

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Around the Rotunda

No Around the Rotunda this week.

Committee News

House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee

8/21/19, 9:30 a.m., Room G-50, Irvis Office Building

By Sheri Melnick and Jeff Cox, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee held a public hearing on House Bill 1568.

[HB 1568 Comitta, Carolyn](#) - (PN 2043) The Pipeline Safety and Communication Board Act establishes the Pipeline Safety and Communication Board to collect and disseminate to the public information of commonwealth agencies relative to the planning, construction, operation, sitting, maintenance, management, inspection and safety of and emergency response procedures for pipelines; and to coordinate communications relating to pipeline activities with federal, state and local government agencies and regulatory authorities, pipelines companies and the public. Effective in 60 days.

Majority Chairman Barrar explained that the legislation would establish a Pipeline Safety and Communications Board. He asserted that he is looking forward to hearing from the entities testifying.

Minority Chairman Sainato explained that he is looking forward to hearing testimony. Rep. Comitta thanked the chairmen for holding the hearings and thanked Rep. Quinn for being the co- prime sponsor. She shared background on the need and value of the bill. She explained that Marcellus Shale is now the largest source of natural gas in the U.S. She asserted that there are 11 pipelines which run through her district and stated that these pipelines run through "heavily populated areas."

Rep. Comitta explained that on almost weekly basis there is information about pipeline incidents somewhere in the United States. She commented on the importance of residents having timely and accurate information about the pipelines. She asserted that the stress around the Mariner East project is a "public health concern."

Rep. Comitta noted that she realized the limitation of communication which has led to misinformation and that she had offered a solution by proposing the creation of a Pipeline Safety and Communication Board, which would implement and coordinate timely communication regarding pipeline activities in Pennsylvania. She stated that the board would provide information and appropriate safety measures of emergency response procedures for pipelines. Rep. Comitta explained that the board would also be responsible for coordinating communication relating to pipeline issues with federal, state, and local officials. She noted that the board would be composed of state officials from state agencies, the General Assembly, and officials from pipeline companies.

Rep. Comitta asserted that some members of the General Assembly had concerns regarding the Confidentiality Act, or Act 156 of 2012. She stated that there is a lack of consensus on how the act is interpreted. Rep. Comitta noted that the act established a system with a public track and a secure track as they apply to communications.

SESSION STATUS

At 12:10 p.m. on Friday, June 28, 2019 the Senate stands in recess until Monday, September 23, 2019 at 1:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore.

At 10:55 a.m. on Friday, June 28, 2019 the House stands adjourned until Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 1:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

UPCOMING SESSION DAYS

House

Sep. 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25
 Oct. 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30
 Nov. 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20
 Dec. 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18

Senate

Sep. 23, 24, 25
 Oct. 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30
 Nov. 18, 19, 20
 Dec. 16, 17, 18



Rep. Comitta thanked the members of the committee for their consideration of pipeline safety across Pennsylvania.

Rep. Quinn thanked Rep. Comitta for her work on the bill. He noted that this is at least the fifth hearing on pipeline-related issues he has attended. He asserted that his top priority is safety and to ensure that all “residents can live, work, and go to school with safety in mind.” He said that House Bill 1568 oversees oil, gas, and non-gas-related activities. He said, “We cannot afford to simply be reactionary to situations.” He asserted that the importance of welfare of neighbors and children should be at the “forefront.”

[Seth Mendelsohn](#), executive director, Public Utility Commission (PUC), told lawmakers that “the commission currently opposes the legislation unless amended to address the two most serious concerns we will highlight today, including the importance of maintaining Pennsylvania’s Confidential Security Information (CSI) Disclosure Protection Act and clarification of responsibilities and procedures related to Pennsylvania’s Right-to-Know (RTK) Law.” He pointed out the legislation in its current form repeals Pennsylvania’s CSI Act without a plan to replace it. Mendelsohn explained, “CSI is information provided by a public utility that, if disclosed, would compromise security against sabotage or criminal or terrorist acts, and the non-disclosure of which is necessary for the protection of life, safety, public property or public utility facilities.” He testified, “It is important to note that the CSI Act covers not only public utility pipelines, but also electric utilities, natural gas utilities, telecommunication utilities, and water/wastewater utilities.” Mendelsohn encouraged the committee members “to review the CSI Act in its entirety.” He cautioned, “We believe repeal of the CSI Act will result in less protection against public disclosure of CSI and increased risk to the public from persons or entities seeking to harm the commonwealth’s infrastructure.”

Mendelsohn also expressed concerns that “there is a lack of clarity in the act regarding the responsibilities of the board and the commission-or other agencies also subject to the act-when the board receives a RTK Law request.” He noted that section five of the legislation requires the PUC to cooperate in providing information, upon request, to the proposed Pipeline Safety and Communication Board. According to Mendelsohn, “If the board requests information from the commission, there is no provision that allows the commission to decline to release information, nor is there an exemption to refuse dissemination to the board per RTK Law exemptions.” He added, “There is no language in section five to explicitly protect the commission from turning over privileged, confidential, or critical infrastructure information to the board.” Mendelsohn pointed out that “it is unclear whether the board or the commission defends a RTK Law response that is appealed to the Office of Open Records.” He added, “Section five of the act also appears to allow agencies to direct the board to handle RTK Law requests in a manner that does not necessarily require notifying the agency that provided the requested information.”

Mendelsohn went on to outline additional concerns with the proposed legislation. He testified, “Based on the current draft of the act, it is unclear whether the board will attempt to exercise some jurisdiction over interstate pipelines, which generally fall under federal jurisdiction, and if so, under what authority.” Mendelsohn also expressed concern with provisions requiring the PUC chairman to attend quarterly meetings of the board, review information collected for dissemination to the public relating to pipeline activities, and aid in coordinating communications and public and private entities. He pointed out that the legislation does not detail how the proposed board will be funded and staffed. Mendelsohn said the proposed bill is “unclear regarding coordination of communications during emergencies and-if the board is to have a role in this process-how that would interface with the safety-related duties of the PUC, the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), along with local, county and state emergency management agencies and responders.” He also suggested that “there should be greater clarity concerning whether meetings of the board are public meetings, and how they will be noticed/ advertised in order to increase access and transparency.”

Rep. Comitta asked if the PUC sees any concern in the legislation as “intractable.” Mendelsohn responded that at this time, he could not say that there is a specific “deal breaker” with regards to House Bill 1568. He asserted that PUC has concerns and said that they would be happy to work with the committee.



Rep. Comitta commented that there seems to be a need for executive session where people who have a security clearance can have discussions on pertinent issues. She stated that one of the proposed amendments to the bill would be to allow for an executive board that could meet. She asked if an executive component would address the PUC's concerns. Mendelsohn responded that the PUC could examine the issue of the establishment of an executive board if the bill is amended.

Rep. Quinn asked what suggestions PUC has to improve communications between PUC and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) if the current legislation is not the vehicle to address the issue. Mendelsohn recognized that legislatively there are restrictions on the ability to communicate information. He stated that the restrictions that the PUC operates under ensure that they comply with current law.

Rep. Quinn asked the PUC for recommendations on how to move forward to improve communications. Chairman Barrar explained the necessity of having future stakeholder meetings with his staff, makers of the bill, and the PUC.

Rep. Gabler asked for the PUC's input on the goal of the legislation and structure proposed. He asked if the concept of the legislation is the most effective way to deal with pipeline safety. Mendelsohn responded that the PUC does not necessarily have a view on that. He explained that they were asked to take a look at the legislation and said that he does not have an opinion as to the "good" or "bad" concept.

Rep. Gabler asked if PUC feels that the legislation would add capabilities in the realm of pipeline safety that the PUC does not already possess. Mendelsohn responded that he is not sure that he can answer that and said that PUC has concerns with some of the issues in the proposed legislation.

Rep. Ryan commented that the bill is a good beginning and asserted his hopes to find a solution to get out information regarding safety to the community as quickly as possible.

Rep. Comitta asked about modernizing Act 156, which Mendelsohn had commented about in his testimony, and whether anyone is currently working on modernizing the act within the PUC. Mendelsohn responded that he did not know. He asserted that the PUC follows the act and makes sure that they are complying with the law.

Rep. Comitta asked if the act prevents important conversations that can improve public safety. Mendelsohn commented that he just attended a program regarding cybersecurity. He asserted that the PUC is willing to working with the legislature to help disseminate information to the public. He stated that there is a balance between protecting security and providing information to the public.

Rep. Comitta commented about the public track and secure track within the Confidentiality Act. She stated that the interpretation of the Confidentiality Act is prohibiting some important conversations between agencies. She asked if one of the goals of modernizing the Confidentiality Act would be to allow for more transparency between agencies. Mendelsohn responded that the act should be looked at in terms of modernization. He asserted that modernization could involve encouraging communications between agencies.

Rep. Comitta asked if there are currently any multi-stakeholder discussions about the "overarching issues" of pipeline safety and public safety, especially regarding natural gas liquids. Paul Metro, manager of the safety division, PUC independent Bureau of Investigation, noted that there is no entity that is looking at communications between different state agencies. He stated that the PUC is facilitating communications between agencies and various government agencies. He stated that the PUC does not have authorization from the legislature to enact an agency-wide communications board.

Rep. Quinn asked if there are any other states that have a similar board that Pennsylvania could model. Metro stated that he is not aware of any.



Chairman Barrar asked if any of the agencies involved in pipelines communicate with one another. Metro commented that he talks with DEP on a daily and weekly basis. He asserted that PUC is careful about discussing CSI. He stated that PUC also speaks with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) on a regular basis.

Chairman Barrar asked whether PEMA could access confidential information from the PUC if requested. Metro responded that they would not necessarily share the information unless it was “vital” to emergency response. Robert Young, deputy chief counsel, PUC, said that Act 156 has a procedure to deal with routine requests for information. He noted that in an emergency, PUC has officers that can go to PEMA for information exchange. He noted that because of the consequences of violating the act, the PUC prefers for the utility to disclose to the agency rather than have the PUC do it. He commented that the penalties of violating the act are criminal penalties and loss of jobs. He stated that the procedures are not set up for emergency sharing. Young asserted that if the proposed legislation had an exception for emergency, that would be helpful.

Rep. Gabler asked what the pipeline safety division provides to Pennsylvania. Metro commented that his agency’s mission is to ensure compliance with federal and state regulations as they pertain to public safety.

Rep. Gabler asked about what an update to Act 156 might look like. Young commented that the areas for change are to allow for communications and said that the specific act does not expressly permit or create a mechanism for sharing to occur. He stated that the Confidentiality Act permits a public utility to designate anything it wants as CSI on filing. He noted that the PUC is then obligated to treat that information as CSI that is protected upon filing.

Rep. Gabler asked who would be the ultimate authority to determine whether something should be classified or not. Young stated that the act “sort of” covers the issue at present and said that it is not triggered upon filing but is triggered upon request. He stated that the filing is typically done through the secretary’s bureau, and asserted those dealing with it are not subject matter experts.

Rep. Gabler asked if there might be an administrative issue with changing this procedure. Young noted that the people currently receiving the requests are not the best qualified to make those decisions.

Rep. Gillen questioned how much interaction PUC has with emergency responders. Metro responded that Federal Pipeline Safety Regulations require training with emergency responders. He asserted the PUC had sponsored trainings recently with emergency responders and said that federal government trainers assist with the training where funding might be an issue.

Rep. Comitta asserted that the goal of House Bill 1568 is to have a “table” for stakeholders to have conversations about pipeline safety, especially with the Mariner East pipeline. She noted that in Chester County there has been communication between various agencies to solve issues relating to the Mariner East pipeline. She stated that a previous conversation about the idea that a cell phone would be prohibited during a gas leak led to agencies learning that a cell phone is not an ignition source. She asked if there is any current opportunity for multi-agency conversations. Metro stated that PUC believed that Chester County is one of the “elite” counties within Pennsylvania with regards to information sharing. He noted that the PUC later discovered that Chester County school districts and emergency responders were not sharing communications. He noted that through the leadership of Rep. Comitta, stakeholders exchanged ideas about pipeline safety issues.

Rep. Comitta asserted that there may be a need for county-by-county conversations, similar to ones that exist in Chester County. She noted that Pennsylvania needs to have the conversation of what the challenges and opportunities are to make the natural gas industry safer for people who live along the pipelines.

Sarah Boateng, executive deputy secretary, Department of Health (DOH) noted that the mission of DOH is to ensure quality health care for the citizens of Pennsylvania. She asserted that DOH is concerned about the impacts of pipeline activities.



Boateng noted that DOH has created an oil and gas registry. She stated that those who have concerns about the oil and natural gas industry can submit their concerns to DOH by email or phone. Boateng explained that information about submitting the concerns can be found on DOH's website. She asserted that DOH coordinates with DEP to track and investigate the claims. She noted that the board in the proposed legislation would be another way to communicate.

Boateng asserted that people are more likely to listen to messages from a local source. She explained that DOH works strategically to inform communities about current public health issues and how they can respond. She asserted that the board proposed by legislation would help with the communication efforts. She stated that current DOH messaging efforts are modeled after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization using accessibility, actionability, credibility of information, relevancy, and timeliness.

Boateng noted that DOH has a role in reassuring the public by providing information so that it is understandable. She explained that DOH considers how familiar the target agency is with the topic and values the importance of empathy. She stated that DOH plans to bring this strategy to the board to share information with the public in the most effective way. Boateng affirmed that DOH supports the establishment of the board.

Rep. Comitta noted that communication by the Mariner East pipeline officials has been "terrible." She stated that people in her district worry about what is happening underground with regards to the pipeline. She asked if DOH has a plan to address that issue. Boateng noted that evidenced-based framework is based upon "timely, transparent, and actionable information-sharing to empower those in crisis." She said that DOH does that with sister agencies such as PEMA and DEP to be prepared for emergencies. She asserted that transparent information is important to tell the public about what is known and unknown. Boateng explained that DOH is providing communities with action items which can "reduce the feelings of hopelessness."

Rep. Quinn noted that the idea that a cell phone could cause tragedy has caused stress in the community. He asked if DOH has been involved in trying to put out information regarding the pipeline. Boateng responded that the most specific involvement is the partnership with DEP regarding different environmental and health issues. She stated that DOH works with DEP on a regular basis to "keep lines of communication open and coordinated."

Rep. Comitta asked how the Confidentiality Act has impacted DOH's ability to be effective communicators and whether it could impact overall communication if it is modernized. Boateng stated that she has not worked specifically with the Confidentiality Act and said that it is not a "roadblock." She noted that the confidential information of first responders would be "beyond the purview of DOH."

[Ramez Ziadeh](#), executive deputy secretary for programs, DEP, explained that DEP regulates pipeline construction as it pertains to erosion and sedimentation (E&S) activities, Chapter 102 of the Pennsylvania Code; water obstructions and encroachments, Chapter 105 of the Pennsylvania Code; and floodplains activities and public utilities, Chapter 106 of the Pennsylvania Code.

He noted that these laws deal with project special conditions which provide for the protection of private water supplies. He asserted that for projects that exceed one of the six DEP regions, DEP posts project information electronically on the DEP pipeline portal. He noted that the pipeline portal can be found on DEP's website.

Ziadeh explained that DEP works closely with county conservation districts to ensure compliance. He noted that DEP inspects projects on a regular basis to ensure compliance with law. He stated that DEP investigates complaints from the public and takes action when violations occur.

Ziadeh noted that DEP "will hold permittees to the highest regulatory standards." He stated that DEP regularly coordinates with state, local, and federal agencies. He commented that DEP communicates with PEMA and PUC to coordinate site inspections, especially in the instance of sinkholes. He explained that regulatory agencies have an obligation to notify DEP of issues that arise.

Ziadeh stated that DEP has been engaged in policy development. He asserted that DEP coordinated two stakeholder



groups to discuss horizontal drilling. He noted that the meetings have been completed and asserted that DEP has draft documents in preparation.

Ziadeh stated that for Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regulated projects, the process is on the FERC website. He noted that DEP examines how the projects affect waterways but cannot dictate where a pipeline is installed. He asserted that once installed, the transportation of natural gas liquids is outside of DEP's authority. He stated that the PUC oversees and enforces the issues related to transportation of natural gas.

Ziadeh explained that DEP applauds Rep. Comitta's work on House Bill 1568 and supports the concept of increased communication. He noted that creation of the board would facilitate more communication. He asserted that the administration would be supportive of the bill with some amendments, especially as they apply to pipelines. He stated that DEP supports changing the definition of pipelines in the proposed legislation to cover only transmission oil and gas pipelines.

Ziadeh commented that there needs to be greater clarification regarding the type of communication and information sharing. He asserted that there is currently a gap in state law regarding projects that are not subject to FERC jurisdiction as they regulate interstate pipelines. He noted that intrastate pipelines are not subject to FERC requirements.

Ziadeh explained that Gov. Tom Wolf has called for regulation granting citing authority to the PUC. He noted that under the Clean Streams Law, DEP does respond when private waters have been impacted. He stated that DEP can require termination of the activity and restoration and replacement. He noted that DEP does not have the statutory authority to regulate private water wells. He stated that DEP lacks the legal authority to establish and enforce private water well standards.

Ziadeh stated that the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) has a database regarding private water wells. He noted that though the database is incomplete, "it is the best available." He asserted that pipeline companies have been reaching out to private owners of the wells. He stated that DEP will respond and require restoration of private water wells and asserted that there is "a need for a more comprehensive and effective approach for private water well protection."

Rep. Comitta asked what Ziadeh's experience was in working within the Confidentiality Act and how it impacts DEP's ability to communicate with agencies, especially regarding public health and safety issues. Ziadeh responded that DEP is required to make information available regarding permit applications which show routes of projects. He noted that some information is redacted as it applies to personal individual information. He stated that DEP is in constant coordination and communication with PEMA and PUC. He indicated that there is an electronic response system.

Rep. Comitta asked if the current wording of the Confidentiality Act prevents DEP from having conversations about pipeline safety. Ziadeh responded that DEP takes enforcement action within their authority. He asserted that the Confidentiality Act does not impact the work that DEP does involving waterway sources. He also deferred to the PUC.

Rep. Gillen asked if, relative to resources and personnel, DEP has the capacity to cover issues. Ziadeh responded that it is difficult but that DEP needs to prioritize their work. He stated that staff working on permit reviews also conduct complaint investigations. He stated that DEP is "pretty effective," especially on critical issues.

[Jonathan Fleming](#), acting director, Bureau of Maintenance and Operations, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), explained to committee members, "Pipelines crossing a state highway are regulated by PennDOT and authorized via a highway occupancy permit similar to the way driveways are regulated and authorized via a highway occupancy permit." He further explained that the department "regulates the location of the pipeline to ensure the facility is being placed at a location where it minimizes possible interference and impairment to the highway, its structures and highway traffic." Fleming also told lawmakers, "The construction of the pipeline is regulated to ensure that traffic is not unduly impaired and proper traffic control is in place while under construction for the safety of the traveling public



and contractor, as well as to ensure the disturbed highway is restored properly. Without these controls, we jeopardize preserving the safe operation, maintenance, construction and integrity of the highway.”

Fleming pointed out, “Pipelines are the only underground utility for which PennDOT, PEMA, and local emergency management agencies each receive separate information regarding the types of product carried and the depth and location of pipelines running under and parallel to our highway network.” He further explained that pipeline companies are the only utility not required to provide information, mark or locate their infrastructure outside of interstate highway crossings. Fleming also said that with interstate highway crossings, the companies are not required to locate their crossings when the placement of markers is not practical and would not serve the purpose for which the markers are intended. According to Fleming, “This information is not only critical to PennDOT to protect our infrastructure from accidental line strikes, it is also critical for municipal and state officials planning for the safe evacuation of Pennsylvania citizens along our rural and non-interstate highway network during emergency events.”

Fleming expressed support for the legislation, however, he said the department is concerned with “what could be a much wider dissemination of information under the bill.” He also testified that the department would urge the committee to consider points of overlap that might be clarified between the role of the PA One Call Board of Directors and the board created under the legislation. Fleming explained, “The PA One Call Board meets quarterly and has established subcommittees working on specific issues such as compliance, education, mapping and technology, damage prevention, and local government, as well as organizational support committees.”

He continued by saying, “PennDOT believes that it would be helpful to clarify the types of pipelines covered by the bill to avoid overlap with the role of PA One Call, and also to clarify the communication and information sharing that the board would be doing so that we are not duplicating efforts.” Concluding his testimony, Fleming told committee members, “It is in the public interest to regulate the location and construction of utility facilities, and to regulate the location, design, construction, maintenance and drainage of access driveways within state highway right-of-way, for the purpose of security, ensuring the structural integrity of the highway, economy of maintenance, preservation of proper drainage, safe and convenient passage of traffic, and safe and reasonable access. The primary focus is public safety.”

Rep. Comitta noted that the repeal of Act 156 is problematic. She asked if the Confidentiality Act is necessary to protect information and if it could benefit from modernization as outlined by the PUC. Fleming stated that there is always an opportunity to look at past legislation and make it more applicable to today’s activities. He noted that it could benefit from a review.

Rep. Comitta asked if PennDOT’s work would be enhanced by participation in a board of the nature required by House Bill 1568. Fleming noted that PennDOT has a designated space at PEMA for those types of interactions which are “pretty much a daily operation.” Fleming stated that having a direct action with legislation would benefit PennDOT. He noted that the overall issue of transportation as a whole is “incredibly important.”

Chairman Sainato asked about how much of the right of way PennDOT uses for a pipeline. Fleming responded that the right of way varies “right down to the individual property owner.” He asserted that for the most part it is the travelling surface and three feet past the white line on “most transportation networks.”

Chairman Sainato asked if PennDOT is paid for the right of ways. Fleming responded that there is a fee structure for highway occupancy permits to pay for the review of the permit. He stated that there is more concern about whether proper procedures are followed when replacing pavement. Fleming noted that payment and use of highways depends upon funding of highways, which comes through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Fleming said that FHWA has very specific rules of what can be in the infrastructure of networks. Fleming stated that PennDOT prefers that highways not be used for right of way due to frequent maintenance.

Rep. Gabler asked if, under current law, PennDOT possess CSI and has certain procedures. He also asked how this relates to highway occupancy permits. Fleming said that PennDOT does currently process CSI and has procedures in



place to adequately protect it. He asserted that highway occupancy permit issues would need to be referred to chief counsel as it regards to the RTK Law.

Rep. Gabler asked how CSI is used when someone wants to know where to dig. He asked how to balance needs of people needing to know where to dig against the protection of privacy to deter terrorism. Fleming responded that “is a constant struggle.”

Rep. Gabler asked how to modernize current law balancing public policy “imperatives.” He asked Fleming to speak to the need from PennDOT’s perspective as far as information sharing from other agencies. He asked how information sharing currently works and asked if modernization of the current statute could provide for better integration. Fleming noted that from past experiences when there are emergency events, all agencies have some type of communications with PEMA. He stated that because transportation is important, PEMA has a conference room to discuss the issues. He asserted that he has not personally dealt with confidentiality issues on an emergency basis. Regarding current routines, he said that concerns need to be addressed going forward.

Rep. Gabler asked if PennDOT envisions that there is information not currently being shared that would be better shared among agencies. Fleming stated that in planning, having enough information is always better and very beneficial.

Rep. Quinn asked how PennDOT would propose solving the lack of information if the legislation does not proceed, either by making changes to Act 156 or through some other vehicle that PennDOT would propose. Fleming responded that he would need to take some time to think about that. He noted that the proposal of House Bill 1568 is important as “planning partners are huge.” He asserted that ongoing maintenance means that people will be digging frequently.

Rep. Gillen asked if there have been integrity issues regarding highways intersecting with pipeline construction. Fleming responded that PennDOT has not had integrity issues regarding pipeline construction. He asserted that most of those issues are DEP issues. He noted that PennDOT has seen some gasoline pipelines under streams that were compromised and noted that was several years ago.

Rep. Gillen asked if PennDOT had resources to fulfill their mission. Fleming responded that they can always use more people because there are “more potholes than people.” He noted that they would always appreciate more resources. Chairman Barrar asked if Fleming could forward unanswered information to the committee.

Rep. Comitta thanked testifiers and members of the committee and noted her appreciation to address the importance of public safety regarding natural gas pipelines. She stated that communication in the energy transfer industry has recently improved and expressed her appreciation for that.

Rep. Comitta noted that communication regarding a specific emergency and response system seems to “be moving along really well.” She stated that where the communication is lacking is how emergency response planning is addressed and what new considerations should go into the response planning. She stated that they are not happening at the interagency level, which is where the bill would provide that requirement.

Rep. Comitta stated that she understands that repealing the Confidentiality Act is “not the best remedy” and that the committee could look into amending it. She referred to Young’s comments from the PUC for Act 156 to make mechanisms for sharing to occur and allow discussion between agencies.

Rep. Comitta stated that the act needs to remove the roadblocks to important conversation. She commented about good suggestions for amendments such as having an executive board that could meet and discuss sensitive information and that would inform the public of safety practices. She noted that another amendment might deal with amending the definition of pipelines.

Rep. Comitta suggested that the committee should take a look at legislative gaps to improve pipeline safety. She asserted



that the hearing was “very helpful on many levels to improve the overarching goal to protect public safety along the natural gas liquids pipelines in Pennsylvania.”

Chairman Barrar thanked the testifiers.

Chairman Sainato thanked the testifiers and asserted that everyone wants to make sure that public safety is done properly. He thanked the members for coming to the hearing. He noted that public safety and security are “very critical.”

Rep. Comitta thanked Rep. Quinn for his work on the bill.

Testimony was also submitted by [Lisa Schaefer](#), director of government relations, County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP).

Bullet.in.Points

PUC: FIXED UTILITY DISTRIBUTION RATES

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, on July 11, 2019, adopted a policy statement that is intended to identify factors the commission will consider in determining just and reasonable distribution rates that promote the efficient use of electricity, natural gas or water; the use of distributed energy resources; and reduce disincentives for efficient use and resources to ensure adequate revenue to maintain the safe and reliable operation of fixed utility distribution systems.

PUC: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PORTFOLIO STANDARDS ACT OF 2004: STANDARDS FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT RESOURCES – TECHNICAL REFERENCE MANUAL 2021 UPDATE

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission on August 8, 2019, adopted the 2021 version of the Energy Efficiency and Demand Side Management rules for Pennsylvania’s Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard, Technical Reference Manual (TRM). A copy of the Final Order, the TRM and the TRM appendices can be found on the commission’s website [here](#).

Cosponsor Memos

- [SCO1102](#) [Iovino, Pam \(D\)](#) Provides for a special registration plate for recipients of the Navy and Marine Corps Medal.
- [SCO1098](#) [Gordner, John \(R\)](#) Amends the PA Board of Vehicles Act with regard to independent automotive dealers and salespersons.
- [SCO1107](#) [Stefano, Patrick \(R\)](#) Creates a designation on the Pennsylvania driver's license or identification card clearly indicating an individual's deafness or impaired hearing.
- [HCO2427](#) [Matzie, Robert \(D\)](#) Resolution designating the week of September 22 to September 28, 2019, as "Rail Safety Week" in Pennsylvania.



Bill Actions

- HB 1745** [Culver, Lynda\(R\)](#) (PN 2336) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) adding language providing no certificate of title shall be issued unless the Department of Transportation or the authorized agent of the department determines after conducting a document search of the commonwealth's electronic lien and title system that no lien of the vehicle exists. Also adds a section providing for lienholder notice of impoundment and recovery of licensed vehicles. Effective in 60 days.
- Bill History:** 08-01-19 H Filed
08-16-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation
- HB 1754** [Causer, Martin\(R\)](#) (PN 2345) Act designating a bridge on that portion of State Route 4021 over the Honeoye Creek, Sharon Township, Potter County, as the Tec 5 C. Virgil Voorhees Memorial Bridge. Effective in 60 days.
- Bill History:** 08-08-19 H Filed
08-16-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation
- HB 1758** [Ortitay, Jason\(R\)](#) (PN 2348) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in fees, exempting volunteer fire companies from the \$22 fee for a certified Pennsylvania State Police record of investigation of a vehicle accident. Effective in 60 days.
- Bill History:** 08-13-19 H Filed
08-16-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation
- HB 1768** [Ryan, Frank\(R\)](#) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in transfer of State highways, further providing for definitions and for restoration of highways.
- Bill History:** 08-20-19 H Filed
- HB 1770** [Dush, Cris\(R\)](#) Act designating a bridge on that portion of Pennsylvania Route 286 over Crooked Creek, Rayne Township, Indiana County, as the SFC Randy McCaulley Memorial Bridge.
- Bill History:** 08-21-19 H Filed
- HB 1775** [Boback, Karen\(R\)](#) Amends the State Highway Law, in rural State highway system and State highways in cities, boroughs and towns, further providing for improvement, reconstruction and maintenance.
- Bill History:** 08-22-19 H Filed



SB 43 Ward, Kim(R)

(PN 20) Act designating a portion of US Route 30 in Hempfield Township, Southwest Greensburg Borough, the city of Greensburg, and South Greensburg Borough, as the J. Edward "Hutch" Hutchinson Memorial Bypass. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

06-10-19 S Signed in the Senate
06-11-19 H Signed in the House
06-11-19 G In the hands of the Governor
06-21-19 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 11)
08-20-19 G Earliest effective date

Upcoming Events

House Transportation Committee

August 28, 2019 – 3:00 p.m. Altoona Railroaders Memorial Museum, 1300 Ninth Avenue, Altoona
Public hearing regarding policy related to the railroad industry

PA Turnpike Commission

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

House Transportation Committee

11:00 a.m., City Hall, 1400 John F Kennedy Blvd, Philadelphia
Public hearing on mass transit funding.

In the News

- 08-22-2019 [Brian O'Neill: Will Pittsburgh ever expand the T?](#)
Adding light rail lines would reduce congestion, but it would also cost taxpayers a lot of money Mayor Bill Peduto says he can see a seamless, vibrant North Shore, stretching from where the 16th Street Bridge crosses the Allegheny River to the city line, down the Ohio River to the northwest... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 08-22-2019 [Back in session: Police urge drivers to use caution around school buses](#)
With local high schools opening across Indiana County, state police and PennDOT officials are reminding motorists to be alert for school bus stop locations to keep children safe as they get on and off the bus. When school is in session, officials encourage drivers to allow extra... - [Indiana Gazette](#)
- 08-22-2019 [New parking garage rate structure planned in West Chester](#)
WEST CHESTER — Borough council is mulling over the possibility of creating a new garage rate structure for monthly parkers. Council members would need to vote to make a change to the monthly rates at the Bicentennial Garage on High Street and the Chestnut Street Garage. The... - [West Chester Daily Local News](#)
- 08-22-2019 [Limerick truck servicing project nearer to final approval](#)
LIMERICK — Only one final vote remains before the controversial truck and shipping container service facility at 181 Limerick Center Road gains final approval from the township. Tuesday night, the supervisors voted 3-1 to authorize the township solicitor to prepare a resolution granting final site plan approval for the... - [Norristown Times Herald](#)



- 08-22-2019 [**'It's just a total waste of taxpayer money': New signs coming to replace those stolen in Conemaugh Township**](#)
No arrests have been made in a sign stealing case in Conemaugh Township, but replacement road markers are on the way. During a supervisors meeting Wednesday night, board Chairman Steven Buncich said that about 30 street signs have been ordered to replace ones that were... - [*Somerset Daily*](#)
- 08-22-2019 [**St. Jude parents upset over Crestwood bus schedules**](#)
WRIGHT TWP. — A change in bus routes for Crestwood School District has at least one parent concerned. Children at St. Jude's school — a Catholic school of the Scranton Diocese — are now scheduled to ride with high school students from the district, Mark Kurlandski of Wright... - [*Wilkes-Barre Times Leader*](#)
- 08-22-2019 [**Three-quarters of Lancaster County municipalities opt-out of video gaming terminals as deadline approaches**](#)
More than three-quarters of Lancaster County municipalities have decided not to allow video gambling machines inside large trucks stops. As of Monday, at least 47 of the county's 60 municipalities had taken advantage of an opt-out provision in a state law that allowed the machines,... - [*Lancaster Intelligencer Journal*](#)
- 08-22-2019 [**Drivers. Stop Parking in the New Spruce and Pine Street Bike Lanes**](#)
Officials are touting a project to revamp safety infrastructure on two of Center City's busiest roads for cyclists — but on the weekends it feels like it doesn't even exist. Here's why it's critical that we clamp down on bad driver behavior now. - [*Philadelphia Magazine*](#)
- 08-22-2019 [**Truck traffic continues to drive Lehigh Valley's long-term plans**](#)
Any conversation about the future of the Lehigh Valley can't seem to get away from trucks. On Wednesday night, members of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission hosted its second public comment section on its draft comprehensive plan. The report spells out the organization's strategy for how the Lehigh Valley... - [*Allentown Morning Call*](#)
- 08-22-2019 [**Report: New Jersey spends most on roads with worst results. See where Pennsylvania ranks**](#)
New Jersey spends more per mile on its highway system than any other state in the country but isn't getting its money's worth, according to a report released Thursday by a nonpartisan public policy group... - [*AP*](#)
- 08-21-2019 [**Pa. Turnpike to replace Cumberland, Lehigh county bridge spans**](#)
The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission is scheduled to replace two bridges in September — one in Lehigh County and one in Cumberland County — using a proven engineering technique that allows workers to replace a bridge within a few days rather than having the public experience a year or... - [*Penn Live, Patriot-News*](#)
- 08-21-2019 [**Fate of Third Street stop signs remains undecided after contentious Harrisburg public hearing**](#)
On Tuesday in Harrisburg City Council Chambers, Angela Johnson talked about her pet cat. She talked about an intersection near her city home where the cat would walk. And she talked about a car full of teenagers that blew through the intersection, running the cat over "like he was... - [*Penn Live, Patriot-News*](#)



- 08-21-2019 [**Statewide DUI arrest totals show small rise**](#)
The number of statewide DUI arrests in 2018 rose by 1 percent from the previous year, according to recently released state police totals. Meanwhile, the city's closest barracks shows a 28 percent decrease in the crime. In 2018, Pennsylvania had 20,143 DUI arrests, compared to 19,963 arrests in... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)
- 08-21-2019 [**Alternative energy, public transit discussed in Sen. Casey's CATA visit**](#)
VERNON TOWNSHIP — Two issues frequently in the national spotlight are alternative energies and public transit. Pennsylvania Sen. Bob Casey rolled into the Meadville area to learn about the Crawford Area Transportation Authority's latest facility and focus on... - [Meadville Tribune](#)
- 08-21-2019 [**Editorial: Family engaged in noble battle to strengthen DUI law**](#)
The Issue: A death caused by a repeat drunk driver leads to an effort to keep such people off the road. Our Opinion: Punishing offenders after the fact isn't enough on its own. The wheels of justice are starting to slow down for Roseann and Richard DeRosa. The pain is not... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 08-21-2019 [**Manufacturer eyes larger property for expansion**](#)
A Cambria City business is eyeing land at Johnstown's airport to relocate its operation and allow for expansion. Diamond MT Inc. President Melvin M. Popovich outlined the 18-year-old company's requirements at Tuesday's meeting of Johnstown-Cambria County Airport Authority.... - [Johnstown Tribune-Democrat](#)
- 08-21-2019 [**Airport opts for do-it-yourself runway paint job; Gander flagpole replaced, lowered**](#)
An emergency solution to a government-ordered runway-marking project will end up saving money at John Murtha Johnstown-Cambria County Airport, according to airport officials. Following the annual Federal Aviation Administration inspections in May, the airport was ordered to repaint much of the main runway markings because... - [Johnstown Tribune-Democrat](#)
- 08-21-2019 [**Settlement conference scheduled in wrongful death suit against DUI driver**](#)
WILKES-BARRE — A long-running suit stemming from a 2015 hit-and-run in Harveys Lake may be nearing a conclusion, as suggested by a court document revealing a settlement conference had been scheduled between the parties. Michael Scavone, 54, is currently around three years into a seven- to... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)
- 08-21-2019 [**Trump's Rollback of Auto Pollution Rules Shows Signs of Disarray**](#)
The White House, blindsided by a pact between California and four automakers to oppose President Trump's auto emissions rollbacks, has mounted an effort to prevent any more companies from joining California. Toyota, Fiat Chrysler and General Motors were all summoned by a senior... - [New York Times](#)
- 08-21-2019 [**Justice announces funding plan for Tri-State Airport, slams Gazette-Mail, residency lawsuit**](#)
After announcing that West Virginia will try to provide \$1.1 million to receive \$10 million in federal funding for runway safety area improvements at Huntington Tri-State Airport, Gov. Jim Justice criticized a lawsuit to compel him to live in Charleston, as well as a Gazette-Mail/ProPublica... - [Charleston Gazette-Mail](#)



- 08-21-2019 [**City needs more transit options**](#)
As a person who studies and works on transportation-related problems, I was surprised to see the Aug. 18 editorial .Unkind to Motorists.. If the mayor suddenly decided to take this route, it would be a bad policy. Instead of focusing on providing more parking, a truly forward-thinking city should be... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 08-21-2019 [**Elizabeth Forward delays start of school as bus dispute continues**](#)
Elizabeth Forward School District has delayed the start of school until Monday as it continues to try to reach a deal with its transportation provider. The school year was scheduled to start Thursday. "I apologize for any inconvenience that this delayed start may cause;... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 08-21-2019 [**You can officially manage your SEPTA Key on the app now**](#)
No kiosk? No computer? No problem. Riders can now manage their SEPTA Keys from the comfort of their phones using the official app, the transit agency announced Wednesday. That means customers can not only see their trip history and status on weekly, monthly, or one-day passes, but check out their Travel Wallet balances and... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 08-21-2019 [**Debating Philly's iconic trolley system: Time for an expansion? Pro/Con | Opinion**](#)
Earlier this month, Philadelphia.s trolley riders faced one of the great banes of their year: a temporary shutdown of the trolley tunnel from 13th Street to 40th Street. SEPTA closed the major city connector for 10 days starting August 9 to complete repairs and preventive maintenance, which it... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 08-21-2019 [**Demolition of Pittsburgh's 'sagging' garage begins**](#)
Contractors have started demolishing one of Pittsburgh.s oldest parking garages to make way for a new one. The Pittsburgh Parking Authority closed the Downtown Ninth and Penn garage on May 31 to prepare for the demolition work. The 62-year old building was known as the .sagging. garage because it.s... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 08-20-2019 [**House Democratic Policy Committee hearing discusses transportation solutions**](#)
The diverse needs of transportation in southeastern Pennsylvania came into focus Wednesday at a House Democratic Policy Committee hearing in Souderton. Rep. Steven Malagari (D-Montgomery) hosted the event in his district. The event brought together professionals and advocates from across the region.... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)
- 08-20-2019 [**It's Coming: Pittsburgh's Bike Plan Readies For A 2020 Debut**](#)
After nearly three years of work, Pittsburgh's Department of Mobility and Infrastructure will present a draft of a new bike plan this fall. The work is part of a wider effort to rethink city streets. In bike-plan-years, Pittsburgh is old. The last, and only time Pittsburgh... - [WESA 90.5](#)
- 08-20-2019 [**Pittsburgh, national gas prices continue fall**](#)
Gas prices have continued to fall in the Pittsburgh region and across the nation, according to the price-tracking website GasBuddy.com. "For a surprising fifth straight week, the national average has declined, ushering in lower gas prices to every state and providing relief... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)



- 08-20-2019 [**Road closure to be lifted**](#)
HOLLIDAYSBURG — Plum Contracting Inc. of Greensburg will make traffic changes this week on the Canoe Creek Improvements Project in Frankstown Township, PennDOT said. Today, the contractor will lift the closure on Juniata Valley Road near the Route 22 intersection at Canoe Creek that was in place for the construction... - [Altoona Mirror](#)
- 08-20-2019 [**Lawmaker reminds drivers of school bus stopping law**](#)
With many students returning to school in the coming weeks, state Sen. Andy Dinniman reminded residents and drivers of the importance of Pennsylvania's School Bus Stopping Law. "Back-to-school time is upon us and in the coming days, school buses will be back on local roadways," Dinniman said. "This is a... - [Phoenixville News](#)
- 08-20-2019 [**Delco region ranks third in Pa. for 2018 DUI arrests**](#)
The region had the third-highest arrest rate for driving under the influence for the second year running in 2018, according to figures released by the Pennsylvania State Police Monday. "First responders see the devastating effects of impaired driving every day," said State Police Commissioner Col. Robert Evanchick in a... - [Primos Delaware County Daily and Sunday Times](#)
- 08-20-2019 [**PennDOT denies four-way stop request at Main and Hanna**](#)
LOCK HAVEN – Stop signs and parking spots were a major topic at last night's Lock Haven City Council meeting. At their previous meeting, council requested that the intersection of East Main and Hanna streets be turned from a two-way stop area to a four-way. That request was denied by PennDOT who owns the roadway, City Manager... - [Lock Haven Express](#)
- 08-20-2019 [**On the promises, challenges and exciting things the new school year offers**](#)
THE ISSUE Columbia Borough School District opened Monday — the first Lancaster County public school district to do so. Cocalico, Lancaster Mennonite and Pequea Valley students will start school today. Donegal, Conestoga Valley, Lampeter-Strasburg, Lancaster Country Day and Penn Manor schools open... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 08-20-2019 [**Hearing to address Elizabeth Forward bus standoff**](#)
Elizabeth Forward School District officials hope a court hearing Tuesday afternoon will end the district's standoff with its transportation provider, but it's still uncertain whether students will be able to get on a bus when school starts Thursday. If the hearing does not go well, officials may delay the start of the... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 08-20-2019 [**Allegiant making LVIA aircraft base in 2020, creating at least 66 jobs**](#)
Allegiant is making Lehigh Valley International Airport an aircraft base in February 2020, creating at least 66 jobs and opening up potential new routes in the future, officials said at a news conference this morning. Allegiant, based in Las Vegas, plans to invest \$50 million to establish the... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 08-20-2019 [**Passenger was thrown from helicopter in crash outside Allentown airport after pilot yelled 'Mayday,' lawyer says**](#)
On Aug. 11, Tim Brown got the chance to do something he had long wanted to do — take a ride in a helicopter. The ride was a birthday gift from his wife, said family friend Emil Giordano, a retired Northampton County judge and attorney who is representing Brown. The retired arts teacher was going to take a... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)



- 08-20-2019 [**U.S. airlines expect record crowds over Labor Day weekend**](#)
DALLAS . Airlines expect record crowds over the week-long Labor Day period, continuing a rise in travel that has boosted the airlines. profits all year... - [AP](#)
- 08-20-2019 [**Southwest to drop Pittsburgh-to-Los Angeles nonstop flights**](#)
Southwest Airlines will eliminate nonstop flights between Pittsburgh and Los Angeles as it drops nonstop flights to many of the cities it serves. The changes are effective Jan. 6, 2020. Also in January, Southwest will add more flights to Atlanta, Denver, Fort... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 08-20-2019 [**Port Authority's track replacement project will finish a few days late**](#)
Commuters who use the Port Authority to get to and from the South Hills will have to put up with construction work on the light rail system for a few extra days. The authority had expected Michael Facchiano Contracting to finish a \$1.8 million project to replace 480 feet of track and concrete between the Mount... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 08-20-2019 [**Allegiant Air will make Allentown airport its next aircraft base in 2020, creating at least 66 jobs**](#)
Allegiant Air announced Tuesday morning it will make Lehigh Valley International Airport its newest aircraft base, creating at least 66 new jobs and the potential for new routes out of the regional airport. The budget aircraft carrier has seen years of growth at the airport, making... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 08-19-2019 [**'We are'... in traffic: Penn State fans should allow extra time for traveling to Happy Valley this fall**](#)
The good news is that nasty intersection of state routes 322 and 144 – the one that on days of heavy traffic can back up for miles – will be no more by late next year. The bad news for college football fans is that they are still in for another Penn State season of tailgate-to-tailgate traffic rumbling past... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 08-19-2019 [**Wheatfield, EMS discuss money for new vehicle**](#)
Kraig Nace is putting all financing options on the table and willing to think outside the box when it comes to replacing Duncannon ambulances. At the Aug. 5 meeting of Wheatfield Twp. supervisors, he said his department is looking at purchasing a pair of 2015 Ford ambulances.... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 08-19-2019 [**Owner of Pennsylvania Coach Lines responds to Elizabeth Forward lawsuit**](#)
The owner of a transportation company the Elizabeth Forward School District recently filed a lawsuit against for breach of contract said the district isn't telling the whole story. The district filed an injunction on Thursday against Pennsylvania Coach Lines after, the district claims, the bus company breached their contract... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 08-19-2019 [**When an autonomous car is in a crash, who's liable? \(Good question.\)**](#)
Who is liable when an autonomous vehicle is involved in a car crash? It's a question yet to be answered, and one the Governors Highway Safety Association broached in a recently released white paper the association will present at its annual meeting Aug. 26 in Anaheim, Calif.... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)



- 08-19-2019 [**Altoona-Blair County Airport — Ridership improves: subsidy at risk**](#)
MARTINSBURG — The Altoona-Blair County Airport's passenger numbers have increased steadily this summer and very few flights are being canceled. But without more passengers, the airport remains at risk of losing its Essential Air Service subsidy that helps sustain daily passenger flights to... - [*Altoona Mirror*](#)
- 08-19-2019 [**Bar seeks dismissal of lawsuit relating to wrong-way drunken driver**](#)
A drunken driver who killed a Milford man in a wrong-way crash on Interstate 81 did not show any sign he was intoxicated while at a Dunmore bar, the bar's attorney argues in a motion to dismiss a lawsuit filed by the victim's wife. Theresa Kunis filed suit against Chaplin's Honky Tonk Restaurant &... - [*Scranton Times*](#)
- 08-19-2019 [**Berks advocates applaud PennDOT move to offer nonbinary gender choice on driver's licenses**](#)
Since first asking to be called by gender-neutral pronouns earlier this year, Kathiria Zorrilla has fielded a variety of questions from a multitude of sources about what it means to identify as nonbinary. Zorrilla encounters questions from fellow students at Reading Area... - [*Reading Eagle*](#)
- 08-19-2019 [**Three killed in Greene County motorcycle crashes**](#)
Three people are dead after multiple motorcycle crashes in Greene County over the weekend. The first crash killed a Virginia man, who was driving a motorcycle north on state Route 88 near Pumpkin Run Road in Jefferson Township just after 5 p.m. Friday. Police said Ira K. Somers, 63, of Broadway, Va., failed to negotiate a turn... - [*Washington Observer-Reporter*](#)
- 08-19-2019 [**Looking for a job? Part-time work available as school bus driver**](#)
Rebecca Bates will be driving a yellow bus filled with York County students when school starts this week, even though it's not her actual job. Bates, a full-time employee at Reliance Student Transportation, will join her fellow full-time co-workers as they take the drivers' seats that are... - [*York Daily*](#)
- 08-19-2019 [**Neshannock seeks \\$6 million bond for recreation project, road work**](#)
The Neshannock Township supervisors last week took the first step toward borrowing \$6 million for Pearson Park, Hess Ice Rink and road improvements. The supervisors on Wednesday hired investment banker Alisha Henry of PNC Capital Markets LLC and bond counsel Attorney Anthony Ditka to lay... - [*New Castle News*](#)
- 08-19-2019 [**New path considered for off-road portal from AOAA into Shamokin**](#)
SHAMOKIN — A different trail connecting the Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area to city streets will be tested during a September ride and could ultimately serve as the permanent portal for off-road vehicles to access the downtown. Terrace Avenue exists as a street on city maps but the earthen and, at... - [*Sunbury Daily Item*](#)
- 08-19-2019 [**Road Warrior: The future is soon? Digital license plates, which can change to alert other drivers about an Amber Alert or stolen car, are being tested in Pennsylvania**](#)
Plenty of motorists hold onto their old license plates, turning them into decorations in garages or rec rooms. But there's a possibility aluminum license plates in general could become antiques. PennDOT has started a pilot program, placing digital license plates on 20... - [*Allentown Morning Call*](#)



- 08-19-2019 [**Harrisburg's controversial plan to remove stop signs prompts public meeting**](#)
Kicking off a Harrisburg City Council meeting last week, Wanda Williams made clear that she's heard residents' complaints. She's read their emails and listened to phone calls, which have been hitting her inbox with increasing frequency since it was announced that... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 08-19-2019 [**City of Pittsburgh floats idea of buying out homeowners who experience repeated flooding**](#)
On June 14, 2017, Jeanne Sharpe received a frantic phone call from her grandson. "He said 'Grandma, I have bad news, all your little houses are floating, we're getting flooded!' I was crying, saying 'Don't worry about the miniature houses, save my house!'" she recalls.... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 08-19-2019 [**Pittsburgh, national gas prices continue fall**](#)
Gas prices have continued to fall in the Pittsburgh region and across the nation, according to GasBuddy. For a surprising fifth straight week, the national average has declined, ushering in lower gas prices to every state and providing relief to consumers who've watched the stock market tank, but of for the same reason... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 08-19-2019 [**Owner of Pennsylvania Coach Lines responds to Elizabeth Forward lawsuit**](#)
The owner of a transportation company the Elizabeth Forward School District recently filed a lawsuit against for breach of contract said the district isn't telling the whole story. The district filed an injunction on Thursday against Pennsylvania Coach Lines after, the district claims, the bus company breached their contract... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 08-18-2019 [**Somebody's watching: Legislator pushes bill to set standards for license plate readers**](#)
Over the past 10 years, hundreds of automated license plate readers have been deployed across Pennsylvania. The devices, which can be stationary or built into police vehicles, record the comings and goings of motorists as they drive from one municipality to another. But despite the highly personal nature of that information, each... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 08-18-2019 [**State to hold hearing on rail passenger and freight service in Western Pa.**](#)
Riders of Amtrak's Pennsylvanian train between Pittsburgh and Harrisburg have long been limited to one morning and one evening train, but a state hearing in Altoona on Aug. 28 is expected to explore the possibility of another train to the daily schedule. If we can improve passenger service in western Pennsylvania, communities... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 08-18-2019 [**Eminent domain valid**](#)
Use of eminent domain often is controversial because American society highly values private property as matters of custom, law and constitutional right. So a government's invocation of eminent domain to take private property is a big deal. Lackawanna County Commissioner Lauren Cummings is dead wrong, though, in... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 08-18-2019 [**Enjoy scenic bridges, leave padlocks at home | Turkeys and Trophies**](#)
Affixing one's heartstrings to a bridge is a worldwide phenomenon that may have originated in Paris. Lovers there would clamp a padlock with their names on it to the railing of the historic Pont des Arts pedestrian bridge, then toss the keys into the current. The weight of the hardware nearly... - [Easton Express-Times](#)



- 08-18-2019 [**Sinking Spring anticipates PennDOT approval soon for infrastructure improvement project**](#)
The Borough of Sinking Spring's revitalization committee on Thursday learned that PennDOT had discussed the Crossroads infrastructure improvement project and, according to borough Manager Michael Hart, had "ironed out just about every item in great detail." The borough should be ready to resubmit the application next week, Hart... - [*Reading Eagle*](#)
- 08-16-2019 [**PennDOT honors interns for Crawford rescue**](#)
MEADVILLE — Two summer interns who helped rescue a Crawford County man pinned beneath a tractor have earned Workplace Hero awards from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. Jacob Southwick, of Titusville, a sophomore engineering student at Slippery Rock University, and Nicholas Swatzler, of Venango County, who will begin... - [*Erie Times-News*](#)
- 08-16-2019 [**Erie's Markopolos claims accounting fraud at GE**](#)
Stock price slides as GE denies allegation Harry Markopolos, the Erie native and financial fraud investigator who uncovered the \$65 billion Ponzi scheme of financier Bernie Madoff, has issued a report on what he says is "a bigger fraud than Enron." The subject of his 175-page report, posted online Thursday, is the... - [*Erie Times-News*](#)
- 08-16-2019 [**Sinking Spring anticipates PennDOT approval soon for infrastructure improvement project**](#)
The Borough of Sinking Spring's revitalization committee on Thursday learned that PennDOT had discussed the Crossroads infrastructure improvement project and, according to borough Manager Michael Hart, had "ironed out just about every item in great detail." The borough should be ready to resubmit the application next week, Hart... - [*Reading Eagle*](#)
- 08-16-2019 [**Plans for new Sheetz off I-83 divides Cumberland County residents**](#)
Nearly two dozen residents attended Lower Allen Township's zoning hearing board meeting Thursday hoping to have their questions answered about a proposed Sheetz store. Preliminary land development plans were submitted to the township for consideration on July 22. In the plans, the Pennsylvania-based convenience... - [*Penn Live, Patriot-News*](#)
- 08-16-2019 [**Elizabeth Forward officials: Bus provider breached contract; student transportation in jeopardy**](#)
Officials with the Elizabeth Forward School District have filed an injunction against Pennsylvania Coach Lines after, the district claims, the bus company breached their contract and are jeopardizing the transportation for thousands of students when school starts next week.... - [*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*](#)
- 08-16-2019 [**Elizabeth Forward sues bus company over broken contract, kids at risk of no transportation on first day of school**](#)
Elizabeth Forward sues bus company over broken contract, kids at risk of no transportation on first day of school More than 2,300 students in the Elizabeth Forward School District are at risk of having no school-provided transportation after the district's bus company broke its contract, according to a lawsuit.... - [*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*](#)



- 08-16-2019 [**Groundbreaking signifies start of 10 Cambria County bridge rehab projects**](#)
Work on 10 bridge deck replacement projects throughout Cambria County will eliminate the structurally deficient label from each of the municipal-owned structures. A groundbreaking was held Thursday at the Ash Street bridge over Solomon Run in Hornerstown, as a kick-off of sorts for nine other bridge deck... - [*Johnstown Tribune-Democrat*](#)
- 08-16-2019 [**County seeking bids for multimillion-dollar airport project**](#)
The Washington County commissioners Thursday unanimously voted to seek bids for what is expected to be a multimillion-dollar infrastructure project at the Washington County Airport. Earth-moving, tree-cutting and other site preparation of 4.8-acres will be a prelude to the construction of an apron, taxiway, access road and parking... - [*Washington Observer-Reporter*](#)
- 08-16-2019 [**General Electric shares plunge after report alleges it's a 'bigger fraud than Enron'**](#)
The whistleblower who sounded the alarm on Bernie Madoff contends the conglomerate is shielding \$38 billion in losses General Electric shares sank Thursday after a Madoff whistleblower accused the conglomerate of using accounting tricks to mask the extent of its... - [*Washington Post*](#)
- 08-16-2019 [**'ODOT Sucks' house undergoing changes**](#)
A homemade billboard declaring "ODOT Sucks" to drivers on Route 161 has graced the side of an uninhabited house for more than a decade. But the property has been sold, and the new owner is renovating the house, leaving the fate of the sign in question. The infamous "ODOT Sucks" house is under new management and big... - [*Columbus Dispatch*](#)
- 08-16-2019 [**Travelers beware: Work will close parts of the Pa. Turnpike**](#)
Commuters using the Pennsylvania Turnpike over the next few weeks may need to consider alternate routes due to some planned closures. The Pennsylvania Turnpike (Interstate 76) between the interchanges of Exit 75 (New Stanton) and Exit 161 (Breezewood) will be closed in both... - [*Penn Live, Patriot-News*](#)
- 08-16-2019 [**Pa. Turnpike to close for bridge work from New Stanton to Breezewood**](#)
NEW STANTON — Motorists will face detours when a section of the Pennsylvania Turnpike closes for bridge work... - [*AP*](#)





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, Matt Hykes, Deborah, Kara, Cheryl, Aaron, Becky, Amyra, Nick, Nicole, Robert, Emily, Andrew, Shaun, Justin, Sheri and Harrison.

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