



# Transportation Recap

Report provided courtesy of: KSA Group

September 13 - 19, 2019

## Contents

- Around the Rotunda . . . . . 1
- Committee News . . . . . 2
- Bullet.in.Points . . . . . 11
- Cosponsor Memos . . . . . 12
- Bill Actions . . . . . 13
- Upcoming Events . . . . . 18
- In the News . . . . . 19

## Around the Rotunda

### PA GIVEN FAILING GRADE FOR SPENDING VOLKSWAGEN SETTLEMENT MONEY

By Matt Hess, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | September 17, 2019

The PennEnvironment Research and Policy Center held a press conference today to announce that they have given Pennsylvania an “F” for how the state is spending the Volkswagen settlement money.

Kelly Flanigan, Global Warming Solutions Campaign for PennEnvironment, noted that this week is “National Drive Electric Week” and explained that transportation is the largest source of global warming pollution in the nation and the third largest source in Pennsylvania. “If we’re going to fight climate change, we need to limit global warming pollution from the transportation sector by transitioning away from dirty fossil-fuel-burning cars and buses and investing in electric vehicles (EVs),” she stated. “There is no question we need cleaner vehicles on our roads and there is no cleaner vehicle than an electric vehicle.”

Flanigan said Pennsylvania received \$118 million from the Volkswagen settlement and explained that the [report card](#) scores were based upon eight criteria. “Our research found that Pennsylvania’s funding structure heavily favors dirty diesel buses over electric buses. Pennsylvania received positive marks on the report card for only two of the eight criteria: ‘is charging infrastructure eligible’ and ‘is the state using 15 percent of its award on charging infrastructure projects,’” she stated. “Pennsylvania’s neighboring states of New York, New Jersey, Ohio, and Maryland all received higher grades since they are incentivizing electric vehicle funding in addition to investing in charging infrastructure. Unfortunately, in the first round of grants released by Gov. Tom Wolf last year, no funding was granted to electric vehicles or EV infrastructure. The recent round of grants fared only slightly better, with 30 percent of the money going to electric buses and EV charging infrastructure.”

Rep. Chris Rabb (D-Philadelphia) brought a toy version of a Chevy Volt as a prop and explained that he is the owner of an actual Chevy Volt. “I am here as a proud EV driver,” he stated. “It doesn’t produce anything, it doesn’t make a sound, I don’t have to get emissions checks, I don’t have to get my brake pads checked frequently. It’s a wonderful vehicle. Electric vehicles are not just the future, they are the present and we have to make them more affordable and more available.”

Rep. Rabb noted that there are also economic side benefits to electric vehicles and called for investments in electric car infrastructure. “It’s really good for business too. I come from Philly—that’s 104 miles from here—and...if I don’t have enough charge I’m going to stop. Do you know what I do every time I stop? I eat. I eat at a local establishment; I stick around,” he stated. “There are no fast charging stations along the turnpike. I pay alternative fuel tax but I don’t have access to the same infrastructure. I can’t make it on most roads because there is not enough infrastructure and that’s a problem. The more EVs on the road, the better it is for the environment and the better it is for local businesses.”

Rep. Steve McCarter (D-Montgomery), chair of the Climate Caucus, emphasized that Pennsylvania has not used the settlement money well. “We did the minimum in adopting the guidelines, but nothing beyond that. We failed to make the most of this opportunity to electrify our transportation systems, and in so doing we have failed future generations of

## 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 2:10 p.m. on Thursday, September 19, 2019 the House stands adjourned until Monday, September 23, 2019 at 1:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

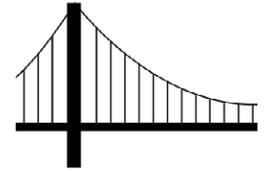
## UPCOMING SESSION DAYS

### House

Sep. 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



Pennsylvanians. We can do better,” he stated. “Next year, I hope to see Pennsylvania on the top of the PennEnvironment scorecard with an ‘A’. We can make that change. I hope to see Pennsylvania use the Volkswagen money for true electrification of our buses, our charging stations and beyond. The climate change countdown clock is ticking quickly and time is growing short. We can’t afford to waste the opportunities given to us.”

Mollie Michel, Pennsylvania field organizer for Moms Clean Air Force’s Pennsylvania Chapter, highlighted the negative impacts of diesel on the environment and children. “Most mornings in front of my daughter’s school there are usually two school buses idling. One of them is a brand new clean diesel bus and one is an old polluting diesel bus. When the littlest children are waiting to go in they are standing tailpipe high. What would happen if those buses were electric? Imagine the immediate improvement of air quality in front of that school,” she stated. “Any investment in transportation upgrades that focuses on diesel fuel is not a step forward, it is a Band-Aid. It does nothing to move Pennsylvania away from fossil fuels and in many ways increases our dependence on alternative fuels like natural gas.”

Mark Szybist, senior attorney for the Climate and Clean Energy Program for the Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC), emphasized that most of the money from the settlement has not been spent and spoke in support of [SB 596](#). “The Pennsylvania Clean Infrastructure Act would set a goal for expansion of electric vehicles 50 percent above where we expect to be in 2030,” he stated. “The market for electric vehicles in Pennsylvania is in its infancy. We need to transform that market. Pennsylvania can do better going forward with the Volkswagen settlement and we can do better on legislation, and SB 596 is an opportunity for Pennsylvania to develop plans and expand transportation electrification throughout the state.”

Ezra Thrush, director of policy for PennFuture, said the organization is concerned that the Volkswagen settlement will be used as another opportunity to subsidize fossil fuel infrastructure and industries. “With transportation responsible for about a third of the greenhouse (GHG) emissions in Pennsylvania, we cannot reach our goals if we continue to invest in gas,” he stated. “We believe the commonwealth has a responsibility to pursue opportunities like the Volkswagen settlement to make wise investments and cut carbon—that means focusing on transitioning to electric vehicles and building more and better electric vehicle infrastructure.”

Emma Horst-Martz, speaking on behalf of Pennsylvania Public Interest Research Group (PennPIRG) Education Fund, said one in nine adults have been diagnosed with asthma, which will cost the state \$2.6 billion by 2020. “Increasing the number of electric vehicles both for personal use and for public transit and school bus fleets would decrease the risk of negative health impacts from dirty air quality in the future,” she stated. “With only 10 percent of the settlement funds spent so far, there is still an opportunity for the money to go towards good projects. This will only be possible if we make better decisions moving forward.”

## Committee News

### House Transportation Committee

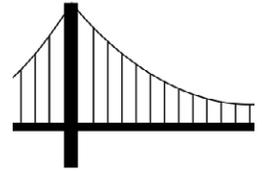
*9/17/19, 11:00 a.m., Room B31, Main Capitol*

By Harrison Cann, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee held an informational meeting on the various perspectives on the usage of asphalt and concrete for road construction and maintenance.

[Melissa Batula](#), acting director, Bureau of Project Delivery, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), testified that competition between the asphalt and concrete industries can lower prices and save taxpayer money. She stated that both pavement types have their own strengths and weaknesses, such as concrete’s durability and asphalt’s convenience and lower cost. She added that PennDOT considers many factors when selecting a pavement type for a project, including adjacent existing pavements, curvature, construction considerations, and more.

Batula stated that PennDOT requires a cost analysis for all new construction projects with at least 30,000 square yards of mainline pavement, and pavement type is selected for a project based on the cost differential between the pavement types.



She reiterated her support for competition between the industries and said PennDOT looks forward to further advances with both industries.

Chairman Hennessey asked why asphalt is favored by some districts compared to other materials. Batula responded that it depends on the area and usage. She noted that in the I-95 corridor, PennDOT wanted to use concrete to deal with the amount of traffic and longevity of the pavement type.

She added that while there are a lot of factors that affect how pavement types are picked for individual projects, PennDOT tends to stick with what has worked in certain areas before. She noted that within the last six years, the number of projects using concrete and asphalt has been split about half and half.

Rep. Kaufer referenced HR 1003 from the previous session that looked to study materials used in PennDOT projects, and asked about the PennDOT's piloting projects for testing pavement types. Batula responded that PennDOT is working on the Central Susquehanna Valley Thruway project in District 3 area but that might not be the same pilot Rep. Kaufer is referring to.

Rep. Kaufer expressed concerns with construction in his district and asserted that he just wants to use taxpayers' dollars in the most efficient way possible. Batula responded that PennDOT shares that concern for using the best quality materials to ensure the longstanding of roadways.

Minority Chairman Carroll asked about asphalt roundabout intersections and what the most effective pavement is for those areas. Batula responded that truck movements are factored into pavement design but that concrete is generally only used in roundabouts when the roads connecting to them are also concrete.

Rep. Schroeder asked how long pavement pilots and studies take. Batula responded that those studies normally take about three to five years to compare the effects on different materials in similar conditions.

Rep. O'Mara asked if asphalt or concrete is better for dealing with storm water and flooding. Batula responded that low volume roads tend to have localized flooding, and those areas typically do not warrant a more expensive concrete solution. She added that she does not know if that question is being studied.

Rep. Donatucci asked if a type of pavement is better for friction. Batula responded that asphalt is used in areas with high crash rates but that each pavement type is designed for different traffic areas. She added that she does not know if that question is being studied.

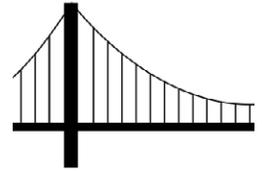
Rep. Neilson asked how PennDOT is ensuring the roads are getting constructed using the best materials. Batula responded that all sample materials are tested and that there have been changes in the density requirement for joint pavements.

Rep. Lawrence referenced Route 41 in Chester County and asked about how PennDOT handles paving over different bases underneath older roads. Batula responded that there are two options to construct over an existing base; either breaking up a base and using the rubble as a base, or cracking the base and seating it before paving otop of it.

Rep. Lawrence asked if that is a cost effective method. Batula responded that it is cost effective but that it can be difficult to manage when trying to work on old construction and new construction at the same time.

Rep. Fee asked if PennDOT is working with other states in studying materials. Batula responded that PennDOT does stay connected to what other states are doing.

[Charles Niederriter](#), chief operating officer, Golden Triangle Construction Company, testified about concrete pavement solutions and how competition can provide Pennsylvania with the best value in paving. He detailed Golden Triangle Construction and the concrete industry in Pennsylvania, stating that 25 percent of the 2,756 miles of interstate and other



freeways in Pennsylvania are concrete. He noted 25 years ago, concrete pavements were built on unstable bases with flawed designs, and although those problems have been resolved, concrete usage has declined since.

Niederriter detailed several new projects in Pennsylvania that have used new tools and asserted that concrete is not necessarily more expensive than asphalt when examining its cost effectiveness. He stated that increasing competition between paving industries can lower paving costs for jobs and is to result in savings for PennDOT and taxpayers. Concluding, he claimed that the concrete industry is in need of steady and predictable levels of work, and that creating a more health system of competition can avoid any risk of losses.

Chairman Hennessey asked how some districts use largely different percentages of concrete. Niederriter responded that he is not sure about specific areas' decisions but that concrete tends to be thicker and more expensive. He noted that rural roads that are thinner do not have the need for concrete and use asphalt more often.

John Becker, President, American Concrete Pavement Association, commented that budgets and knowledge of materials varies in certain areas. He noted that some districts stick to what materials they have used in the past regardless of what may be the best material.

Rep. White asked about bidding processes and what competition, or lack of competition, issues exist in the market. Niederriter responded that some areas "suffer from a lack of knowledge" when it comes to choosing materials for bids. He noted that there are restrictions that limit setting bids and a bidding process overall.

Becker commented that there are certain designs that cannot compete in specific areas so there is no reason to place a bid in those cases. He noted that Alternate Design/Alternate Building (ADAB) policy and location of quarries play a "tremendous role" in whether a competitive bidding process takes place.

Chairman Carroll asked what districts are in the one percent concrete usage category and why those areas are in that category. Niederriter responded that Districts 1, 2, 4, and 8 are in that category and some of those issues go back to previous issues with projects from years ago.

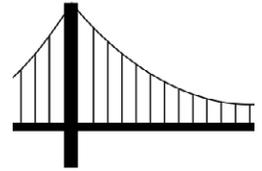
Chairman Carroll asked if ADAB projects are only on the interstate system. Becker responded that those projects vary in types of roadways but they are for high traffic areas. He stated that the ADAB policy requires a project of greater than 30,000 square yards to have a life cycle cost analysis done with it.

Chairman Carroll asked that if ADAB projects were split close to 50-50 with asphalt and concrete, why PennDOT does not utilize ADAB policy for more projects. Becker responded that the ADAB projects have to take on additional costs of creating multiple designs, and that with smaller projects the process often needs to be expedited.

Rep. Neilson asked how legislators can ensure that there is a competition between companies in bidding processes. Niederriter responded that some areas that do not use much of one type of pavement should warrant a red flag. Becker commented that having informational meetings like this one can "shed a little light" on current issues. He noted that ADAB is not the only tool for requiring different bidding options but that not all projects need ADAB because one material is clearly more efficient.

Chairman Hennessey asked why certain projects make more sense for concrete or asphalt. Becker responded that roundabouts and intersections with generalized traffic and areas with heavy truck traffic are much better for concrete. He noted that a lot of interstate roads have used concrete but that some do not because of the rigidity of the material, as do rural and low volume roads.

Rep. Donatucci asked what types of concrete are better used in certain areas and what costs come with those. Niederriter responded that reinforced concrete is generally not used in Pennsylvania because it corrodes rebar inside of the pavement and can be very expensive. He added that polymer concrete can be used on bridge decks because it adds strength but it



can be expensive. Becker noted that concrete works much better when laid down in square slabs compared to one long pavement.

Rep. Heffley asked what is successful in paving long rural roads. Niederriter responded that a mixture of soil, cement dust, and asphalt can be very effective, and it is typically used with asphalt paving on top.

[Charles Goodhart](#), executive director, Pennsylvania Asphalt Paving Association (PAPA), highlighted the current status of the asphalt industry and PAPA in Pennsylvania. He detailed recent improvements in developing more resilient asphalt and PAPA's initiative with PennDOT in advancing that development. Goodhart stated that asphalt benefits the owner and user of the pavement by ensuring the following: smoothness, safety, quietness, sustainability, maintainability, and constructability.

He added that the crack and seat paving method for asphalt is very cost-effective and that he encourages PennDOT to use that technique more going forward. Concluding, he commented that the overall benefits of reducing construction time and cost will be realized by both motorists and taxpayers.

Chairman Carroll asked about the performance of asphalt in roundabouts with heavy truck traffic. Goodhart responded that there would always be a concern with heavy truck traffic. He added that polymerized asphalt is normally used on a road with higher than five percent truck traffic which is designed to perform better with heavy traffic.

[Mike Shaak](#), assistant chief engineer, construction, Turnpike Commission, testified that decisions by the Turnpike Commission on the usage of highway materials come back to considerations of its paying customers. He noted that the commission continues to increase its tolls by six percent annually based on estimates of providing "safe, smooth, and nonstop travel." He added that the original turnpike was constructed with a concrete base that has been paved over with layers of asphalt over the years.

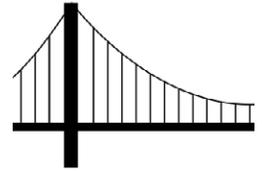
Shaak stated that the rate of reconstruction projects on the turnpike has declined recently with declining capital programs and growing debt. He noted that most reconstruction projects have used asphalt but that some projects and construction of interchange ramps utilize full-depth concrete pavement. Concluding, he reiterated that the commission makes an effort to place the right materials in the right places to benefit the commission and its customers.

Chairman Hennessey asked what percentage of the turnpike's top layer is covered in asphalt. Shaak responded that the majority of the original turnpike was concrete but it is done over with asphalt. He added that new expansions under Act 61 have all been built with concrete pavement.

Chairman Carroll asked why bridges and ramps are concrete. Gary Graham, assistant chief engineer, design, Turnpike Commission, responded that concrete can be reinforced and that asphalt would require a waterproof membrane to prevent deterioration of the deck underneath. Shaak responded that ramps with heavy traffic and truck volume have concrete to ensure the longevity of the pavement.

Rep. Heffley asked if paving lanes separately and sealing them together affects their longevity. Shaak responded that paving practices need to be straight to improve density of joints but there has to be uniform density across the roadway to prevent failures.

Rep. Heffley asked if there is data that proves the current methods are the best practices. Shaak responded that there is data that supports the used densities and pavement management.



### **House Committee on Committees**

*9/17/19, 3:45 p.m., House Floor*

By Becky Mehringer, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee announced the following changes, effective immediately:

Rep. Zachary Mako (R-Northampton) has temporarily resigned as a member of the House Professional Licensure Committee, the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, the House Aging and Older Adult Services Committee, and the House Finance Committee.

Rep. Michael Peifer (R-Pike) has been temporarily elected as a member of the House Professional Licensure Committee.

Rep. Michael Peifer (R-Pike) has resigned as a member of the House Transportation Committee.

Rep. Ryan Warner (R-Fayette) has been elected as a member of the House Transportation Committee.

Rep. Jim Marshall (R-Beaver) has resigned as a member of the House Transportation Committee.

Rep. Lori Mizgorski (R-Allegheny) has been elected as a member of the House Transportation Committee.

Rep. Jim Marshall (R-Beaver) has been elected as a member of the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee.

Rep. David Rowe (R-Snyder) has been temporarily elected as a member of the House Finance Committee and the House Aging and Older Adult Services Committee.

Rep. David Rowe (R-Snyder) has been elected as a member of the House Local Government Committee and the House Children and Youth Committee.

Rep. Wendi Thomas (R-Bucks) has resigned as a member of the House Local Government Committee.

Rep. Torren Ecker (R-Adams) has resigned as a member of the House Children and Youth Committee.

- 30 -

### **House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee**

*9/18/19, 10:00 a.m., Room 205 Ryan Office Building*

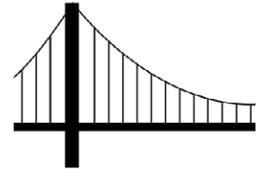
By Matt Hess, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider one resolution and hold an informational meeting on the September 11th National Memorial Trail.

[HR 469 James, Lee](#) - (PN 2421) Resolution recognizing the month of October 2019 as National Arts and Humanities Month.  
- The resolution was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Turning to the informational meeting, Chairman Millard explained that the committee would be apprised of the progress that is being made on the September 11th National Trail, which includes the Flight 93 National Memorial in Shanksville and travels across a large portion of Pennsylvania, including stops in Gettysburg and Valley Forge.

[Jane Sheffield](#), treasurer, September 11th National Memorial Trail Alliance, began the presentation with a short video that explained that the September 11th National Memorial Trail Alliance was formed in 2004 for the sole purpose of establishing



a 1,300-mile system of trails and roadways that will link the planned and existing memorial sites at the World Trade Center, Pentagon and the Flight 93 National Memorial.

Sheffield said the alliance recently completed a three-year strategic plan. “During this time, our focus will be on trail implementation, marketing and communications, governance and operations, and development and fundraising,” she stated. “By closely following our updated plan, we aim to develop a September 11th National Memorial Trail into a catalyst for economic prosperity by encouraging recreational, educational and cultural tourism across Pennsylvania as well as Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Delaware, and Washington D.C. At this time, over 50 percent of the trail is off-road and we have partnered with federal, state, county and local officials on 14 projects to connect more than 30 existing trails between these five states.”

Sheffield explained that the alliance plans to fabricate and install over 700 signs across the Pennsylvania portion of the trail, which includes 24 counties. “We are working with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) to confirm our on and off-road signage. The trail plan does not seek to establish an entirely new trail, but rather to connect three critical landmarks by way of existing trail systems, roadways, and established trail plans by municipalities. The signage plan that we are proposing to be funded will further connect these various parts by providing a consistent and comprehensive wayfinding system around the route,” she stated. “Trail systems across Pennsylvania support local businesses, increase property values, boost local spending, encourage business development, and generate tax dollars for communities. As such, trails can be especially critical in low-income communities in both rural and urban areas. Beyond economic development, trails encourage health and wellness.”

Andy Hamilton, board chair, September 11th National Memorial Trail Alliance, said the trail honors all those who were lost on September 11 and those lost subsequently due to the cleanup of the World Trade Center. “We’re very fortunate to be working on something as significant as this,” he stated. Hamilton said the alliance is working with the Department of Interior and the National Park Service on the trail and recently got the United States Senate to pass a resolution regarding the trail. He noted that Cindy Dunn, secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), is meeting with the organization this Friday.

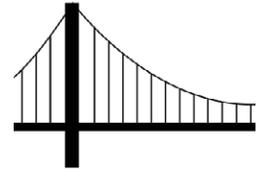
Chairman Millard commended the organization for pulling together all the different resources at various levels of government to get the trail completed and spoke in support of the initiative. “It’s a teaching moment and something that will provide people with proper reflection and certainly promote all the good in communities with recreation in addition to the history lesson that comes with it,” he stated. “I think it will open more doors in the future and be a model for other entities and trails in the future.”

Minority Chairman Longietti said the trail represents a “solemn endeavor” and questioned if the organization is doing anything specifically for the country’s 250th anniversary in 2026. Hamilton said the alliance wants to create a series of events and organize one large-scale pilgrimage along the trail. He added that events are planned for the 20th anniversary of the attacks in 2021.

Rep. Gregory commented that Pennsylvania will be the “Keystone State” in the trail and said Ohio has benefited greatly from trails. He expressed hope that other small towns, such as Williamsburg, will benefit from the September 11th National Memorial Trail. Sheffield noted that Blair County has experience in developing trails such as the Greater Allegheny Passage, and the hotel tax dollars in that county are being used to sponsor rail town workshops for communities like Williamsburg.

Rep. Shusterman asked how much the signage will cost. Sheffield said the estimated cost is \$250,000 and noted that the organization did not qualify for funding through the Greenways Trails and Recreation Program last year, but plans to reapply this year.

Rep. Maloney noted that he is an avid bicycle rider and questioned why the trail map does not identify the Valley Forge Connection to the Reading Connection. Hamilton said the map does not show “every piece of every trail,” but Google Maps will provide bicyclists additional routes to go along the trail.



Rep. Boback questioned if the alliance is encouraging bicyclists to go on to the roadway trail. Sheffield said the goal is to make the trail “100 percent off-road” but that right now there are experienced bike riders that are riding the full trail. “As all these different trail groups succeed in getting their gaps closed, and I know that’s a huge priority of DCNR, we’ll be able to create a safe route for a variety and diverse group of people in Pennsylvania.”

- 30 -

## **House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee**

*9/19/19, 10:00 a.m., Room G-50 Irvis Office Building*

By Matt Hess, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee held a hearing with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on climate change initiatives.

Chairman Metcalfe explained that the purpose of the hearing is to hear from DEP about the Wolf administration’s climate change initiatives. “From the governor’s executive order to the discussions on the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and the transportation initiative and all those sorts of things,” he stated.

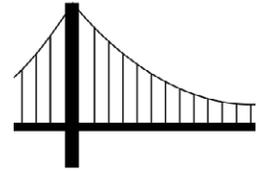
[Patrick McDonnell](#), secretary, DEP, emphasized that climate change is the most critical environmental issue and that it has led to more flooding, more heat and respiratory illnesses, more vector-borne diseases and pests, and more disruptions to agricultural systems in Pennsylvania. He also highlighted the following statistics:

- Since 1900, Pennsylvania has warmed by 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Annual precipitation has increased by 10 percent on average, with some areas seeing a 20 percent increase over the same time period.
- From 1958 through 2010, the Northeast U.S. saw more than a 70 percent increase in the amount of precipitation falling during very heavy events.

“According to DEP’s most recent Greenhouse Gas Inventory, the total statewide gross greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for Pennsylvania were 287 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents. Pennsylvania’s emissions have shown a relative decrease of 13 percent in gross emissions from 2000 to 2015. This is a good start, but it’s still not enough. The sectors with the largest contribution to the commonwealth’s GHG emissions are the transportation, industrial, and electricity production sectors, all of which combine to account for approximately 82 percent of Pennsylvania’s emissions,” he stated. “Despite the encouraging trend of decreasing overall emissions, more must be done to make the reductions necessary to effectively mitigate climate change. In fact, DEP projects overall emissions to increase from 2015 levels by 2025 and even more so by 2050 if no additional policies are implemented.”

Sec. McDonnell explained that in April, Governor Tom Wolf released an updated Climate Action Plan. “The Climate Action Plan presents a list of potential strategies and actions that governments, citizens, and businesses in Pennsylvania can take to address and adapt to climate change. Included are 19 strategies, providing over 100 actions across eight different sectors that, if implemented by the state and local governments, would drastically lower Pennsylvania’s GHG emissions and increase our ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change,” he stated. “The macroeconomic analysis included in the plan shows that implementation would result in economic benefits to Pennsylvania through an increase in total jobs and gross state product. If only 15 actions out of the over 100 in the plan were implemented, we could expect a \$200 million increase to the state economy by 2025 and a \$3.7 billion increase by 2050. These actions would also add 6,500 new jobs in 2025 and 40,000 new jobs in 2050, primarily in industries related to energy conservation and efficiency. These are good-paying, family-sustaining jobs, such as electricians needed to install energy efficiency equipment.”

Sec. McDonnell also discussed RGGI. “RGGI is a carbon pricing system for electricity generation that nine Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states currently participate in. RGGI is a market-based solution, composed of individual carbon budget trading programs in each state that link together. Pennsylvania is currently the only state in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic that does not participate or is working toward participating in RGGI,” he stated. “The RGGI states have reduced power sector carbon



dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) pollution by over 45 percent since 2005, while the region's per-capita gross domestic product (GDP) has continued to grow. RGGI-funded programs also save consumers money and help support businesses. RGGI investments in 2015 are estimated to return \$2.31 billion in lifetime energy bill savings to more than 161,000 households and 6,000 businesses that participated in programs funded by RGGI investments, and to 1.5 million households and over 37,000 businesses that received direct bill assistance. Pennsylvania is being left out and left behind.”

Sec. McDonnell then spoke about the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI), which is a regional collaboration of states that seeks to reduce carbon emissions from the transportation sector and develop the clean energy economy while improving transportation systems. “Pennsylvania joined 12 states and the District of Columbia to announce our joint commitment to design a regional, market-based, low-carbon transportation policy proposal that would reduce emissions from transportation and generate funds for states to invest in cleaner and more resilient transportation systems and infrastructure. This design effort is still underway, with modeling yet to be completed,” he stated.

Turning to electric vehicles (EVs), Sec. McDonnell said DEP is preparing for the future by identifying the key actions needed to increase adoption of EVs in Pennsylvania through the *Pennsylvania Electric Vehicle Roadmap*, released in 2018. He highlighted the following funding initiatives:

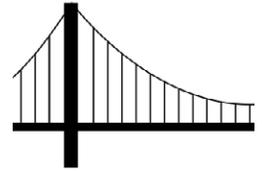
- Alternative Fuel Vehicle Rebates provide eligible residents rebates of \$1000 \$1500 per plug-in vehicle depending on vehicle type. The program has been growing over time; between 2018 to 2019, 2,389 vehicles received rebates totaling \$3.7 million, up from 1,997 vehicle rebates between 2015-2018.
- The Alternative Fuel Incentive Grant Program has provided grants to support EV fleet vehicles and EV fleet refueling. Over \$2.8 million has been awarded in support of these projects across Pennsylvania.
- Due to the settlement with Volkswagen, Pennsylvania was allocated \$118.5 million to spend on clean transportation initiatives through its Driving PA Forward Program. Pennsylvania is spending the maximum allowed 15 percent of these funds on electric vehicle charging infrastructure, equal to \$17.7 million. Since the program began in fall of 2018, the department has approved 157 Level 2 charging projects (479 new plugs) and 5 DC fast charging projects, equal to \$3,275,000.

Sec. McDonnell then discussed efficient buildings and energy conservation. “State and local leaders can increase energy efficiency by financing or incentivizing more energy efficient design standards and technologies, as well as by improving efficiency of government-owned facilities and equipment. Governor Wolf is doing all of that,” he stated. “Governor Wolf’s executive order last January establishes a strategic energy management plan for public facilities that includes benchmarking and specific energy, water, and transportation emissions reductions targets and goals. The executive order sets a goal to collectively reduce overall energy consumption by three percent per year, and 21 percent by 2025 from 2017 levels, along with other energy efficiency and conservation goals for state agencies.”

Sec. McDonnell said Gov. Wolf is also helping small businesses save money on energy and highlighted the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) and his support for updated building codes.

“The impacts of climate change are real and will continue to put Pennsylvanians at risk from increased flooding, higher temperatures, and more. If not properly accounted for, these trends will threaten Pennsylvania in other ways: agriculture will have to adapt to greater extremes in temperature and precipitation; forests will be subject to multiple stressors; suitable habitat for plant and wildlife species is expected to shift to higher latitudes and elevations; winter recreation will decline; and public health will deteriorate because climate change will worsen air quality relative to what it would otherwise be, causing increased respiratory and cardiac illness,” Sec. McDonnell stated “These impacts can be alleviated if all Pennsylvanians—including citizens and businesses, but especially leadership—understand their responsibility to combat and adapt to climate change and take action. The benefits of acting include economic growth, jobs, cleaner air, resilience and more. Pennsylvanians want to provide a prosperous commonwealth with clean air, water, and land for generations to come. Now is the time to take action on climate change.”

Minority Chairman Vitali commended Sec. McDonnell and DEP for their work and said he hopes that the General Assembly



will provide the department more funding. He asked where Pennsylvania is on the RGGI issue and questioned when the methane regulations will be on the Environmental Quality Board's (EQB) agenda. Sec. McDonnell said the regulations are planned to be on the agenda for the December meeting of the EQB. In terms of RGGI, he said the department is examining the "technical modeling" and "mechanical steps" on what it would mean to join RGGI. "We're still engaged in discussions here and trying to understand from other states what the implications are," he stated.

Rep. Rapp asked if wind turbines and solar panels produce any other product aside from electricity. Sec. McDonnell said they only produce electricity but there are jobs associated with the installation and maintenance of wind turbines and solar panels. Rep. Rapp said oil and gas produce a myriad of other products and opined that heavy vehicles utilized by the Department of Transportation (PennDOT) will never be able to run off only a battery. "I don't really buy into climate change and I'm a big supporter of the oil and gas industry. I believe because of the natural gas industry we have seen a huge reduction in emissions," she stated. Sec. McDonnell emphasized the importance of using cleaner forms of electricity and said that PennDOT is excluded from Gov. Wolf's executive order because there are no EV alternatives on the market, but noted that companies such as Tesla are piloting EV tractor trailers.

Rep. Dush said Pennsylvania's Solar Future Plan does not deal with recycling solar panels that contain lead and cadmium that can leak out and argued that the issue should be addressed before the commonwealth moves forward. Sec. McDonnell said solar panel manufacturers are working on the recycling issue but the panels typically last 25 to 30 years. "The waste issue is something we need to address but the climate issue is something absolutely right in front of us," he stated.

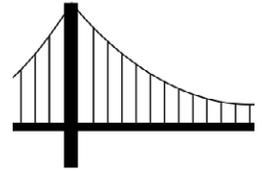
Rep. Daley said Lyme disease is more prevalent in Pennsylvania due to climate change and indicated that East Stroudsburg University has a lab where ticks can be tested.

Rep. Fritz said there has been a 13 percent decrease in carbon dioxide emissions and that Pennsylvania has met the original Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean Power Plan requirements. He expressed concern that Pennsylvania's economy would suffer if further emission reductions are required and asked if businesses "have a seat at the table" when DEP considers implementing new policies. Sec. McDonnell said Pennsylvania has not yet achieved the 26 percent reductions in GHG emissions by 2025 that is part of the governor's executive order and explained that advisory groups take businesses' and the public's concerns into consideration when policy is being considered. "We are seeing demand in businesses for exactly these kinds of programs and initiatives; they want to be achieving climate goals. These are large multinational companies, these are energy companies here within the state that are setting climate goals that are more wide-ranging than simply what they produce," he stated.

Chairman Metcalfe questioned if "model rule" would have to be adopted in order to enter into RGGI. Sec. McDonnell responded that is correct and it would have to be a regulation that would have to be adopted. Chairman Metcalfe indicated that the cost to consumers has gone up in Maryland as a result of entering into RGGI and expressed concern that it could damage Pennsylvania's economy. He asked for reassurance that the Wolf administration will not try to unilaterally enter into RGGI without the consent of the General Assembly. Sec. McDonnell said the RGGI states have not experienced higher prices to consumers and affirmed that DEP is still researching the issue and expects discussions with the legislature to continue.

Rep. Comitta noted that she has introduced a cosponsor memo regarding a carbon cap and invest bill and asked what she can tell critics who say that legislation and entering RGGI will kill business in Pennsylvania. Sec. McDonnell said DEP has taken a look at the RGGI states and they have not seen negative impacts over the last 10 years of being in RGGI. In contrast, they are building out their renewable energy and energy conservation infrastructure and saving their businesses and residents money. "We're going to start seeing over time more and more renewable generation within the grid, within PJM having an impact on the overall grid, and I think it's important for us to be ahead of that," he stated.

Rep. Zimmerman expressed concern about the ability of small businesses to comply with changing building codes. Sec. McDonnell said the state has already updated the energy provisions of the statewide building code and the next series of changes are currently being examined. He noted that DEP is offering training for building operators on building retuning to



promote energy conservation in existing buildings to save businesses money.

Rep. Krueger emphasized that an overwhelming scientific consensus is that climate change is real and asked what three things the General Assembly should do to address climate change. Sec. McDonnell listed several examples including: adopting changes to the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards to increase the solar requirement from 0.5 percent to 4 to 8 percent as recommended in the Pennsylvania Solar Future Plan; updating the Act 129 Energy Efficiency program administered by the Public Utility Commission to remove the cap on energy efficiency as recommended in the Climate Action Plan Update; and looking to encourage private investment in energy conservation by making further changes and expanding the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program local financing option.

Chairman Metcalfe said that renewable energy purchases made to comply with the governor's executive order were being done through a firm in San Francisco and asked if Sec. McDonnell was aware of the Department of General Services (DGS) contract. Sec. McDonnell said he was not familiar with the specifics of the contract but noted that thanks to a law signed by Gov. Wolf, any solar energy purchased in Pennsylvania to meet the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards must be generated within Pennsylvania's borders. Chairman Metcalfe stated, "I want to close borders too but in a different way. Build the wall. Thanks for that segue."

Rep. Schemel asked, with other states joining RGGI and companies in other areas taking action, why Pennsylvania has to act and how much Pennsylvania's actions will contribute to temperature reductions. Sec. McDonnell said other states are making investments in renewable energy generation that will run and one side effect is other power plants in other areas will not. He indicated that Pennsylvania now has the advantage of being an electricity exporter but that could change as other states get the advantages of renewable generation and the costs continue to drop.

- 30 -

#### **House Consumer Affairs Committee**

*09/19/19, 11:30 p.m., B31 Main Capitol*

By Robert Cochran, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider legislation.

[HR 482 Matzie, Robert](#) - (PN 2458) Resolution designating the week of September 22 through 28, 2019, as "Rail Safety Week" in Pennsylvania. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Minority Chairman Rob Matzie (D-Beaver) said recognizing Rail Safety Week provides awareness for residents to stay off railroad tracks.

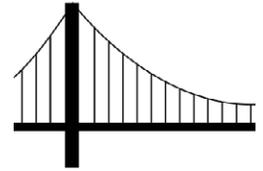
Committee staff noted that a quorum was not established, despite voting proxies being submitted. Rep. Gene DiGirolamo (R-Bucks) reiterated that proxies cannot be counted towards a quorum. Chairman Brad Roae (R-Crawford) said if there are no objections he would consider the resolution. He claimed that members may be at other meetings at this time.

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

##### **[PENNDOT: MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION FUND; INVITATION TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS](#)**

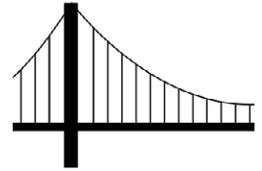
The Department of Transportation (PennDOT) is providing notice to eligible applicants that it will begin accepting Multimodal Transportation Fund (MTF) applications for grants on September 9, 2019, which establishes a competitive grant program for the MTF. The deadline for application submittal is November 8, 2019. Additional information, guidelines and frequently asked questions about the MTF program can be obtained on PennDOT's [website](#). Applications should be submitted electronically through PennDOT's SharePoint [site](#).

Questions related to the MTF program may be directed to David Bratina, PennDOT Office of Multimodal Transportation, 400 North Street, 8th Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17120, (717) 705-1230, [RA-PDMultimodalFund@pa.gov](mailto:RA-PDMultimodalFund@pa.gov).



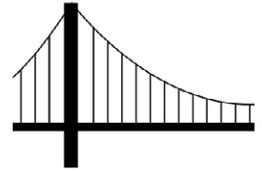
## Cosponsor Memos

HCO1936	Nelson, Eric(R)	Two-bill package addressing firearms' restoration of rights and transportation.
HCO2353	Donatucci, Maria(D)	Ensures Transportation Network Company drivers are compensated fairly for the hours they work, as well as the burden they bear in expenses for maintaining their vehicles.
HCO2372	Wheeland, Jeff(R)	Provides for electronic certification of the calibration testing for speed timing devices used by law enforcement.
HCO2382	Miller, Daniel(D)	Allows for a discreet designation to be placed on a person's driver's license or state issued identification card at their request which would identify them as a person with a disability.
HCO2402	Causer, Martin(R)	Increases the funding available through the Emergency Medical Services Operating Fund.
HCO2480	Quinn, Chris(R)	Protects families from repeat DUI offenders by increasing penalties for those who have multiple DUI convictions and enhancing oversight of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections and Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole.
HCO2549	Murt, Thomas(R)	Grants licensed physical therapists the ability to authorize and certify disabilities for vehicle disability placards.
HCO2565	Rabb, Christopher(D)	Allows individuals who legally use medicinal cannabis to operate a motor vehicle.
HCO2587	Malagari, Steven (F)(D)	Eliminates the additional costs associated with REAL ID for individuals 65 years of age and older.
HCO2594	Klunk, Kate(R)	Ensures that both first-time and repeat DUI offenders are consistently offered the means to enter and sustain recovery.
SCO 490	Tomlinson, Robert(R)	Updates towing requirements and enhances road safety for tow truck operators and other motorists.
SCO 972	Collett, Maria (F)(D)	Creates a senior discount on REAL ID fees for all those that elect to make it their form of identification or their driver's license.
SCO1069	Pittman, Joe(R)	Reduces transfers occurring from the Motor License Fund to fund operations of our State Police.
SCO1102	Iovino, Pam(D)	Provides for a special registration plate for recipients of the Navy and Marine Corps Medal.



## Bill Actions

- HB 37**      **Brown, Rosemary(R)**      (PN 2058) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in general provisions, further providing for definitions; in licensing of drivers, further providing for learners' permits; in rules of the road in general, prohibiting use of interactive wireless communications devices, imposing penalties and establishing the Distracted Driver Awareness Fund; and, in operation of vehicles miscellaneous provisions, further providing for the offense of homicide by vehicle and for the offense of aggravated assault by vehicle. "Interactive wireless communications device" does not include a system or device that is physically or electronically integrated into the vehicle other than being connected to the vehicle solely for the purpose of charging the system or device; nor a hand-held radio being used by a person with an amateur radio station license issued by the Federal Communications Commission. Minor applicants for learners' permits shall view educational materials on the dangers of distracted driving. No person shall operate a motor vehicle on a highway or trafficway in this commonwealth while using an interactive wireless communications device while the vehicle is in motion, except as outlined in the bill. The Distracted Driver Awareness Fund is established in the Motor License Fund to be used solely for the purpose of the educational program established in the bill and for the installation and maintenance of official traffic control devices. Repeals other language regarding text-based communications prohibition in the Vehicle Code. Effective in 180 days. (Prior Printer Number: 356)
- Bill History:** 09-17-19 H Reported as committed from House Rules  
09-17-19 H Laid on the table  
09-18-19 H Set on the Tabled Calendar  
09-18-19 H Removed from the table  
09-23-19 H Set on the House Calendar
- HB 303**      **Nelson, Eric(R)**      (PN 2453) Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses), in firearms and other dangerous weapons, establishing that if a firearm is unloaded and not readily accessible, an individual may transport a firearm in a motor vehicle for a lawful purpose. Effective in 60 days.
- Bill History:** 09-11-19 H Filed  
09-13-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Judiciary  
09-24-19 H Meeting set for 9:00 a.m., Room 60, East Wing, House Judiciary -- House Judiciary



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  
09-25-19 H Meeting set for 9:00 a.m., Room B31, Main Capitol, House Local Government -- House Local Government  
09-18-19 H Meeting cancelled for 09/25/19, House Local Government -- House Local Government  
09-24-19 H Meeting set for Off the Floor, Room G-50, Irvis Office Build, House Local Government -- House Local Government

HB 915 Causer, Martin(R)

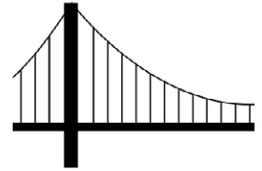
(PN 1487) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in size, weight and load, further providing for permit for movement during course of manufacture; and, in powers of department and local authorities, further providing for power of governor during emergency. The bill establishes that combination of vehicles which is hauling milk to or from a milk plant or to or from a dairy farm, or is traveling to a dairy farm to pick up milk, may be permitted by the department and local authorities to move upon highways within their respective jurisdictions 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and in the event of a declared national, state or local emergency unless it is specifically stated in a proclamation or executive order. Requires that decals issued by the Milk Marketing Board to be placed on any milk truck that is exempted. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 1036)

**Bill History:** 06-27-19 G In the hands of the Governor  
07-07-19 G Last day for Governor's action  
07-02-19 G Vetoed by the Governor (Veto: 2)  
09-18-19 G Bill, together with Governor's Veto Message, laid on the table  
09-23-19 H Set on the Tabled Calendar

HB 1168 Caltagirone,  
Thomas(D)

(PN 1346) Amends the Tax Reform Code, in sales and use tax, adding that the definition of "building machinery and equipment" includes traffic signal foundations, poles and mast arms. Effective in 60 days.

**Bill History:** 06-18-19 H First consideration  
06-18-19 H Rereferred to House Rules  
09-17-19 H Reported as committed from House Rules  
09-17-19 H Laid on the table  
09-23-19 H Set on the Tabled Calendar



HB 1208 Carroll, Mike(D)

(PN 1420) Amends the Tax Reform Code adding a new article establishing the airport land development zone program to encourage and promote the creation of new jobs on land and buildings owned by airports in the commonwealth. Provides for an airport land development zone tax credit in the amount an airport land development zone employer may earn in any tax year equal to \$2,100 for each full-time equivalent employee in excess of the number of full-time equivalent employees employed by the employer prior to January 1, 2020. Further provides for definitions, and application and plan. Effective in 60 days.

**Bill History:** 06-11-19 H First consideration  
06-11-19 H Rereferred to House Rules  
09-17-19 H Reported as committed from House Rules  
09-17-19 H Laid on the table  
09-23-19 H Set on the Tabled Calendar

HB 1392 Carroll, Mike(D)

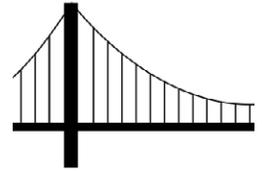
(PN 2060) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in liquid fuels and fuels tax, further providing for definitions and establishing an electric vehicle road fee; and making editorial changes. The new subchapter shall be known as the Electric Vehicle Road Fee Act. Concurrent with submitting an annual or biennial vehicle registration application and fee to the department, an owner of an electric vehicle shall submit the electric vehicle road fee. The electric vehicle road use fee for any electric motorcycle and neighborhood electric vehicle shall be \$50 per year. The electric vehicle road use fee for any electric vehicle that requires a class C license to operate shall be \$150 per year. The electric vehicle road use fee for any electric vehicle that requires a class A or class B license to operate shall be \$250 per year. The fees shall be deposited in the Motor License Fund. Effective in 180 days. (Prior Printer Number: 1693)

**Bill History:** 09-19-19 Laid out for discussion 1:52pm  
09-19-19 H 1 Floor amendment(s) adopted  
09-19-19 Second consideration 1:59pm  
09-19-19 H Over in House  
09-19-19 H Rereferred to House Appropriations

HB 1810 Donatucci, Maria(D)

(PN 2468) Amends Title 66 (Public Utilities), in transportation network service, establishing a minimum pay rate for transportation network company drivers; and imposing duties of the Department of Labor and Industry. For each prearranged ride arranged through the company's transportation network system, the company shall pay a minimum pay rate if the fare or payment for the prearranged ride is less than the minimum rate. The minimum pay rate shall be adjusted based on the cost of living and a report shall be provided to the legislature related to the establishment of a minimum pay rate and the job aspects of transportation company network drivers. Effective in 60 days.

**Bill History:** 09-11-19 H Filed  
09-16-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Consumer Affairs



HB 1817 Miller, Daniel(D) (PN 2480) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in licensing of drivers, establishing that an individual diagnosed with a disability may request to have a disability identifier symbol place on their driver's license or identification card. The individual shall not be required to provide further documentation that the individual has a disability for the purpose of renewal or reissuance of the driver's license or identification card. The symbol must be discreet and represent all types of disabilities. Effective in 60 days.

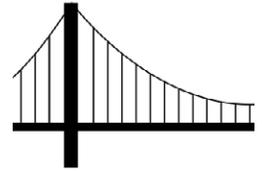
**Bill History:** 09-13-19 H Filed  
09-17-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

HB 1821 Quinn, Chris(R) (PN 2483) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in general provisions, establishing a definition for continuous alcohol monitoring device; in licensing of drivers, providing requirements for an ignition interlock device; in driving after imbibing alcohol or utilizing drugs, providing vehicle impoundment requirements if an individual is arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or controlled substance and has two or more previous convictions, along with provisions concerning consecutive sentence penalties, ignition interlock requirements, the grading of offenses and mandatory sentencing requirements; and establishing a study conducted by the Department of Transportation to evaluate the effectiveness of driving under the influence courts in Pennsylvania. This legislation may also be referred to as Deana's Law. Effective in 120 days.

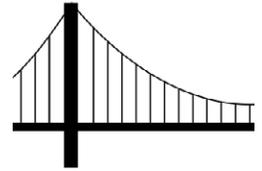
**Bill History:** 09-13-19 H Filed  
09-17-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

HB 1825 Wheeland, Jeff(R) (PN 2487) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in rules of the road in general, establishing synchronizing calibration requirements for speed timing devices and electronic certification of calibration testing. Effective in 60 days.

**Bill History:** 09-17-19 H Filed  
09-17-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation



- HB 1838 Causer, Martin(R) (PN 2523) Amends Titles 35 (Health and Safety) and 75 (Vehicles), in emergency medical services system, providing that 75 percent of the money from the Emergency Medical Services Operating Fund shall be disbursed so that 30 percent of the funds are allocated to provide training to underserved rural areas. This legislation also requires that not less than 10 percent of funds shall be provided to emergency medical services agencies to assist with medical equipment purchases for ambulances. Effective in 60 days.
- Bill History:** 09-18-19 H Filed  
09-19-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Prepared.  
09-24-19 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m., Room 205, Ryan Office Building, House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Prepared. -- House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Prepared.
- HB 1849 Lewis, Andrew (F)(R) Act designating a portion of Pennsylvania Route 39 in Dauphin County, from Dover Road to Forest Hills Drive, as the Officer Mark Gaspich Memorial Highway.
- Bill History:** 09-19-19 H Filed
- SB 596 Mensch, Bob(R) (PN 665) Amends Title 66 (Public Utilities), in restructuring of electric utility industry, providing for transportation fueling infrastructure development. The bill provides for the governor to conduct a statewide transportation electrification opportunity assessment and establish a goal for statewide expansion of transportation electrification that is 50% above current market forecasts for December 31, 2030, in the assessment. further, the commission shall issue transportation electrification infrastructure development plan guidelines for electric distribution companies. Effective in 60 days.
- Bill History:** 04-30-19 S Filed  
04-30-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Consumer Protection & Prof. Licensure  
09-17-19 S Press conference held
- SB 849 Iovino, Pam(D) (PN 1162) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in registration of vehicles, establishing special plates for recipients of the Navy and Marine Corps Medal. Effective in 60 days.
- Bill History:** 09-18-19 S Filed  
09-18-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Transportation
- SB 855 Collett, Maria (F)(D) (PN 1168) Amends the PA REAL ID Compliance Act adding language providing an eligible applicant who is at least 65 years of age shall be exempt from all fees related to the administration of the act and shall only be required to pay the costs of a standard-issued driver's license or photo identification card. Effective immediately.
- Bill History:** 09-19-19 S Filed  
09-19-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Transportation



**SB 856 Tomlinson, Robert(R)** (PN 1169) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) adding a new subsection allowing a permitted vehicle or combination hauling a dozer with an attached blade in excess of 12 feet in width, but not wider than 15 feet, to move upon a highway if a traffic protector guiderail device is securely fastened to the dozer or the blade is angled so the total width of the load does not exceed 12 feet. Further provides a blade over 15 feet in width shall be removed and hauled separately. Effective in 60 days.

**Bill History:** 09-19-19 S Filed  
09-19-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Transportation

**SB 858 Pittman, Joe(R)** (PN 1161) Amends the Fiscal Code to further reduce the transfers each fiscal year from the Motor License Fund to fund operations of the Pennsylvania State Police. Effective in 60 days.

**Bill History:** 09-19-19 S Filed  
09-19-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Transportation

## Upcoming Events

### House Judiciary

*September 24, 2019 - 9:00 a.m., Room 60, East Wing*

To consider: [HB 303](#) Nelson, Eric Amends Title 18 re firearms

### PA Public Utility Commission

*September 24, 2019 - 10:00 a.m., Commonwealth Keystone Building, Desert Room, 400 North St., Harrisburg*

Consumer Advisory Council Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-1740

### House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Prepared.

*September 24, 2019 - 10:00 a.m., Room 205, Ryan Office Building*

To consider: [HB 1459](#) Schlossberg, Mik Amends Titles 35 & 75 re emergency responders [HB 1838](#) Causer, Martin Amends Titles 35 & 75 re EMSOF Fund

### House Local Government

*September 24, 2019 - Off the Floor, Room G-50, Irvis Office Building*

To consider: [HB 523](#) Day, Gary Amends General Road Law re maintenance

### House Transportation

*September 25, 2019 - 9:30 a.m., Room G50, Irvis Office Building*

To consider: [HB 916](#) Stephens, Todd Amends Title 75 re DUI offenders [HB 1710](#) Hennessey, Tim Amends Title 75 re license plates [HB 1711](#) Hennessey, Tim Amends Title 75 re license plates [HB 1712](#) Hennessey, Tim Amends Title 75 re license plates [HB 1758](#) Ortity, Jason Amends Title 75 re vehicle accident reports [HB 1768](#) Ryan, Frank Amends Title 75 re transfer of state highways [HR 473](#) Saylor, Stanley Resolution re Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day

### Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority (SEPTA) Board

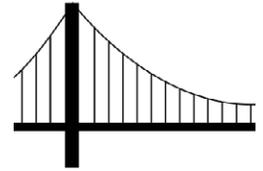
*September 26, 2019 - 3:00 p.m., SEPTA Headquarters, 1234 Market Street, Mezzanine Level, Philadelphia*

Board Meeting. For additional information: (215) 580-7800

### Pittsburgh Port Authority

*September 27, 2019 - 9:30 a.m., Neal N. Holmes Board Room, 5th Floor, 345 Sixth Avenue, Pittsburgh*

Board Meeting. For additional information: (412) 566-5137



### **PA Turnpike Commission**

October 1, 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

### **PA Public Utility Commission**

October 3, 2019 - 10:00 a.m., Commonwealth Keystone Building, Hearing Room 1, 400 North St., Harrisburg Public Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-1740

### **PA Pedalcycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee**

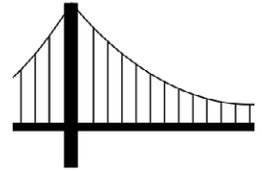
October 9, 2019 - 12:30 p.m., Commonwealth Keystone Building, Room 8N1, 400 North St., Harrisburg Committee Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-3991

### **PA State Transportation Advisory Committee**

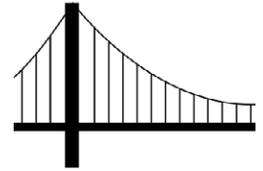
October 10, 2019 - 10:00 a.m., Commonwealth Keystone Building, Room 8N1, 400 North Street, Harrisburg Committee Meeting. For additional information: (717) 787-2913

## **In the News**

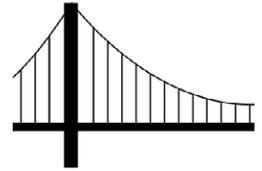
- 09-19-2019 [PUC Approves Lower Rate Increase than Requested by UGI Utilities; Grants...](#)  
(Press Release)
- 09-19-2019 [PUC Takes Major Steps to Address Energy Affordability for Low-Income...](#)  
(Press Release)
- 09-19-2019 [AG DePasquale: Cumberland Valley School District Audit to Include...](#)  
(Press Release)
- 09-19-2019 [PennDOT: PA Receives Funding to Assist Safe Integration of Automated...](#)  
(Press Release)
- 09-19-2019 [Scheduling special election date to fill former Sen. Folmer's seat is a balancing act: LG Fetterman](#)  
With Sen. Mike Folmer's sudden resignation now official, Lt. Gov. John Fetterman has to decide when a special election will take place to fill the vacant 48th state senatorial district seat representing Lebanon County and parts of Dauphin and York counties. The election code provides Fetterman 10 days to set the date from when the... - [Penn Live](#), [Patriot-News](#)
- 09-19-2019 [Unity museum offers look at Pennsylvania Turnpike's impact on Lincoln Highway](#)  
The Lincoln Highway Experience museum will mark the 79th anniversary of the opening of the Pennsylvania Turnpike with the Oct. 1 presentation, "The Impact of the PA Turnpike – the Lincoln Highway meets the Superhighway." The 7 p.m. program will include a panel discussion and viewing of historic... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 09-19-2019 [Berks, national gas prices rise after attack on Saudi oil refineries](#)  
Even though Saudi Arabia only produces about 5% of the world's oil supply, an attack on that country's oil installations last weekend is already being felt around the world and in Berks County. The price of regular gasoline in the Reading area is up about 4.3 cents... - [Reading Eagle](#)



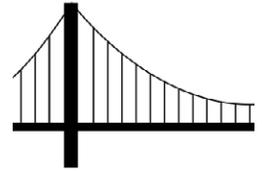
- 09-19-2019 **[PennDOT praises roundabouts](#)**  
HARRISBURG — The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has announced that according to department data, fatalities, injuries and crashes decreased overall at 19 roundabouts at 16 locations after they were built. “We are glad to promote the use of roundabouts throughout the... - [Altoona Mirror](#)
- 09-19-2019 **[State’s use of VW settlement funds criticized](#)**  
HARRISBURG — Environmental groups are giving Pennsylvania an “F” for failing to use Volkswagen settlement funds to more aggressively invest in electric vehicles. Pennsylvania was awarded \$118 million in 2018 as part of a nationwide \$2.925 billion settlement over allegations that Volkswagen had cheated on... - [Meadville Tribune](#)
- 09-19-2019 **[Child seat safety check planned](#)**  
HOLLIDAYSBURG — A car seat safety check will be held today in Altoona as part of National Child Passenger Safety Week. The free safety seat check will run from 2 until 7 p.m. in the parking lot of Target, 153 Sierra Drive. Parents are encouraged to bring their child... - [Altoona Mirror](#)
- 09-19-2019 **[Amtran asked to plan for buses](#)**  
In 2018, Amtran received money from PennDOT and the Federal Transit Administration to buy 16 new Compressed Natural Gas buses, as part of a PennDOT initiative to promote the state’s natural gas industry. That same year, the FTA authorized an additional grant — contingent on... - [Altoona Mirror](#)
- 09-19-2019 **[Letter: Real highway issue not being addressed](#)**  
Editor: The PennDOT plan to widen Route 222 between Broadcasting Road and the off ramp to Route 422, which is needed and welcome, does not fix the bottleneck where the roads merge ( “Route 222 project called longer road to far safer trip,” Reading Eagle, Sept. 16). The widening will only provide... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 09-19-2019 **[Court: Ad bans based on religion violate First Amendment](#)**  
In a precedent-setting ruling, a federal appellate court said the County of Lackawanna Transit System’s blanket ban on ads relating to religion violates the First Amendment rights of an atheist group. The 2-1 decision from the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals overturns a federal... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)
- 09-19-2019 **[Portion of new wall along Solomon Creek built, next phase of project underway in Wilkes-Barre](#)**  
WILKES-BARRE — The decades-old problem of a crumbling Solomon Creek wall received the attention it demanded, officials said Wednesday as they showed off the completed first phase of the infrastructure project. Mayor Tony George marked the progress with a press conference on the Barney... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)
- 09-19-2019 **[Input sought on transit plan for 4 Northeast Pa. counties](#)**  
The Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance, designated by the state as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for Carbon, Monroe, Pike and Schuylkill counties, is updating its 20-year regional long-range transportation plan. The plan is a blueprint for the region’s decision-making on... - [Pottsville Republican and Evening Herald](#)



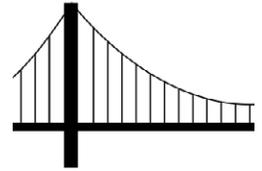
- 09-19-2019 **[GVF recognizes regional partners for their advocacy](#)**  
KING OF PRUSSIA — More than 40 organizations from across the Greater Philadelphia region were recognized Monday for being advocates for Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies. The organizations were recognized during GVF's 10th annual TDM Advocates Breakfast.... - [Lansdale Reporter](#)
- 09-19-2019 **[Exeter School District won't outsource busing](#)**  
EXETER — The outsourcing of student busing at the Exeter School District is off the table for now. Business Manager Anne Gurdish reported that the district received two proposals, from Krise Bus Co. of Bangor, Northampton County, and Student Transportation of America of Allentown.... - [Pottstown Mercury](#)
- 09-19-2019 **[Trump Defends Plan to Kill California's Auto-Emissions Authority](#)**  
President Trump on Wednesday posted on Twitter an aggressive defense of his unprecedented move to abolish California's legal authority to set its own standards on climate-warming automobile emissions. Mr. Trump was in Los Angeles for a fund-raiser when he boasted about the... - [New York Times](#)
- 09-19-2019 **[Opinion | Trump Muddies the Air](#)**  
In announcing on Wednesday his determination to revoke California's longstanding authority to set its own air pollution standards, President Trump finds himself arrayed against the plain language of the Clean Air Act, California's historical role as a laboratory for tough new... - [New York Times](#)
- 09-19-2019 **[Two vie for Conemaugh Township supervisor](#)**  
Conemaugh Township voters will choose between two candidates on Nov. 5 for their next supervisor. The candidates are Terry W. Jamerson and Steve Buncich. Jamerson, 58, of Jerome, is the challenger running against the incumbent Buncich, 57, of Conemaugh Township.... - [Somerset Daily](#)
- 09-19-2019 **[Two-man race for Somerset Township supervisor](#)**  
Roads and flooding are being highlighted in the Somerset Township supervisor race. Democratic contender Michael Zambanini is hoping to unseat Republican Supervisor Don Miller in the Nov. 5 municipal election. Zambanini also ran in the 2017 Democratic primary, losing to fellow Democrat Bryan Barron.... - [Somerset Daily](#)
- 09-19-2019 **[Harris Township Asks PennDOT to Address Safety Concerns on Shingletown Road](#)**  
For nearly two decades, Harris Township officials have been asking PennDOT to address safety concerns along Shingletown Road/Route 45. While some of those issues have been addressed over the years, others remain. But now the township is hopeful its latest request to address those... - [State College News](#)
- 09-19-2019 **[GM workers are on strike and Kaiser healthcare employees are set to walk off the job next month.](#)**  
Once, as a striking union member, I put a sign on my 10-pound Yorkshire terrier that read: Only dogs should accept bones. Walking that picket line with no paycheck coming was scary, and yet it was one of the most empowering things I've ever done. The union mattered then, and it does now. In collective bargaining, there... - [Washington Post](#)



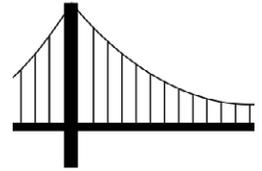
- 09-19-2019 **[The White House should compromise with California on fuel efficiency standards](#)**  
TWO MONTHS ago, California offered what one senior state official described as an olive branch to the Trump administration. In the fight over how strict government fuel-efficiency standards should be, the state struck a deal with several automakers that would give them more flexibility and time... - [Washington Post](#)
- 09-19-2019 **[The UAW is on strike against GM. Expect more strikes in the coming years.](#)**  
At midnight Monday morning, around 50,000 General Motors workers went on strike. The last GM strike took place in 2007, a year before the federal government bailed out the auto industry and before the global financial crisis. Over that decade, GM has increased its profits, making \$35 billion in the... - [Washington Post](#)
- 09-19-2019 **[Historical commission, art board at odds over art for garage at Ewell Plaza](#)**  
Art is said to be in the eye of the beholder — and Historical Commission members did not like what they beheld Monday evening. The Lancaster Parking Authority had brought them renderings for its North Christian Street garage and library. But commission members strongly... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 09-19-2019 **[Council proposes resolution to require permit for large events](#)**  
BLAIRSVILLE — In a bid to head off eleventh-hour surprises for police and other town officials, Blairsville Borough council wants to require advance notice of large events from the people who plan them. The borough council Tuesday agreed to advertise for adoption next month and... - [Indiana Gazette](#)
- 09-19-2019 **[FAA: Broad Mtn. wind farm does not impact airspace](#)**  
The Federal Aviation Administration says a proposed wind farm on the Broad Mountain will not impact aircraft flying to and from local airports. Last week, the federal agency released its report on the 22 turbines proposed for Packer Township, which if built will reach 655 feet tall... - [Lehighon Times News](#)
- 09-19-2019 **[Maryland officials pledge to fight for California auto emissions standards, which are the law here, too](#)**  
Maryland's top elected officials are pledging to fight Trump administration moves to weaken vehicle emissions standards. President Donald Trump said Wednesday his administration was revoking California's right to set emissions rules more strict than the federal... - [Baltimore Sun](#)
- 09-19-2019 **[Duquesne Light leans into electric transportation, just as the federal government goes in the opposite direction](#)**  
Duquesne Light's CEO Steve Malnight was borderline delighted not to find a parking space for his Tesla when he arrived at Serendipity Labs on Tuesday. All eight charging ports in the nearby Strip District garage were in use. "We need more chargers out there!" he preached to a like-minded... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 09-19-2019 **[Cost jumps \\$30M for Downtown-Oakland rapid bus project; Port Authority eyes 2023 start](#)**  
The cost of the Port Authority's Bus Rapid Transit project between Downtown Pittsburgh and Oakland has increased substantially even though the project has been scaled back to eliminate some improvements in the Uptown neighborhood. When the authority submitted its third application for a federal Small... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)



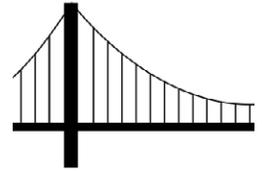
- 09-19-2019 **[Springdale councilmen irked by latest water project cost overrun](#)**  
Already plagued by unforeseen expenditures, the cost of Springdale's water system renovation has increased again with a \$132,000 change order. It is payment for additional paving to Kukurin Contracting Inc. the general contractor for installing the new water lines that are part of the project.... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 09-19-2019 **[Arnold Palmer Regional site for airport security fast-track enrollment](#)**  
Prospective airline passengers who want to fast-track their trip through airport security checkpoints will have the opportunity to sign up for the Transportation Security Administration's PreCheck program Sept. 23-27 at Arnold Palmer Regional Airport. The program allows pre-approved, low-risk travelers to skip some of the... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 09-18-2019 **[Warner Appointed to House Transportation Committee](#)**  
(Press Release)
- 09-18-2019 **[PA Public Utility Commission Meeting Agenda for September 19, 2019](#)**  
(Press Release)
- 09-18-2019 **[Despite \\$118 million Volkswagen emissions settlement, Pennsylvania is failing to promote electric vehicles, groups say](#)**  
Pennsylvania is in a unique position to pivot away from traditional sources of fuel, namely gasoline, environmental activists say. But they argued Tuesday at a news conference at the Allentown Arts Park that the state is failing badly so far as it pays for programs through a... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 09-18-2019 **[In Harrisburg, Third Street stop signs are coming out, electric car charging stations are going in](#)**  
A widely criticized plan to remove four stop signs from a heavily trafficked Harrisburg roadway has been cut in half, but the timeline of an ongoing project to improve that same roadway has been extended into next summer. That's true for two reasons, Harrisburg Mayor Eric Papenfuse announced... - [Penn Live](#), [Patriot-News](#)
- 09-18-2019 **[Time's up for old parking meters in Scranton](#)**  
Time's up for old-fashioned parking meters in downtown Scranton. The operators of the city's parking system, ABM Scranton, are installing modern, touchscreen payment-station kiosks and yanking out the old meters. "Pay-by-plate pay stations are arriving in downtown," the firm... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 09-18-2019 **[Lane closures on 322 West to begin Thursday](#)**  
REEDSVILLE — The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation announced Tuesday that the left passing lane on U.S. 322 West between Reedsville and Milroy will be closed for short periods of time beginning Thursday so crews can begin installation of a cable median barrier designed to reduce the... - [Lewistown Sentinel](#)
- 09-18-2019 **[Westmoreland Transit seeking new proposals for services](#)**  
The Westmoreland County Transit Authority could be looking to move on from the company that has operated its bus and shared-ride systems for nearly a decade. The authority last year awarded a new five-year, \$29.5-million contract to National Express to operate the transportation services, but issues with... - [Latrobe Bulletin](#)



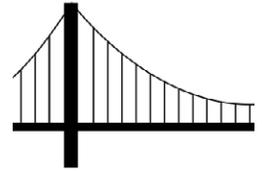
- 09-18-2019 **Berks, national gas prices rise after attack on Saudi oil refineries**  
Even though Saudi Arabia only produces about 5% of the world's oil supply, an attack on that country's oil installations last weekend is already being felt around the world and in Berks County. The price of regular gasoline in the Reading area is up about 4.3 cents... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 09-18-2019 **Trump to Revoke California's Authority to Set Stricter Auto Emissions Rules**  
The Trump administration is expected on Wednesday to formally revoke California's authority to set auto emissions rules that are stricter than federal standards, taking a major step forward in its wide-ranging attack on government efforts to fight climate change.... - [New York Times](#)
- 09-18-2019 **G.M. Chief's Test: Satisfy Striking Workers and Sustain Bottom Line**  
Mary T. Barra has often referred to her years of experience on the General Motors factory floor. So it was familiar terrain when the chief executive embarked this year on a tour of plants across the Midwest and South, a mission to create good will among unionized workers ahead of contract... - [New York Times](#)
- 09-18-2019 **The Governor, the Seneca Nation and the Completely Rotten Highway**  
If ever you wanted a tangible symbol of the execrable relationship between Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo and New York's largest Native American tribe, it is the three miles of cracked, rutted and completely rotten highway running through this lakeside reservation. The highway, Interstate 90, is so deteriorated that federal authorities... - [New York Times](#)
- 09-18-2019 **Trump administration to revoke California's power to set stricter auto emissions standards**  
The Trump administration plans this week to revoke California's long-standing right to set stricter air pollution standards for cars and light trucks, the latest step in a broad campaign to undermine Obama-era policies aimed at cutting greenhouse gas emissions to combat climate... - [Washington Post](#)
- 09-18-2019 **Analysis | The Energy 202: Trump administration not so interested in states' rights when it comes to California**  
President Trump likes to cast himself as a champion of states' rights. But he stops short when it comes to California and other liberal states. The latest example comes from Trump's Environmental Protection Agency, which is on the cusp of revoking California's authority to regulate... - [Washington Post](#)
- 09-18-2019 **In a record year for safety, here's where people died in fatal crashes in the Lehigh Valley**  
Despite efforts to prevent any traffic deaths across the Lehigh Valley, 47 people died last year in 43 crashes, according to newly released PennDOT data. And while that may be too many for comfort, both figures marked record lows in the Lehigh Valley over the last 20 years, according to PennDOT data.... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 09-18-2019 **Despite court order, 2 bus routes remain stalled for Elizabeth Forward students**  
Many parents of Elizabeth Forward School District students are facing more busing headaches Wednesday morning. For a third straight day, parents have been notified that buses will not be running for routes 106 and 114. McKeesport-based Pennsylvania Coach Lines, the company that provides... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)



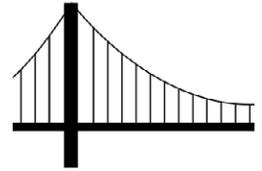
- 09-18-2019 **[New urgent care center opens just off central Pa. interstate](#)**  
A WellSpan Health urgent care center opened this week just off Interstate 83 in York County. The center, open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day including weekends, is at 2149 Queen Street in York at the site of a former diner. In conjunction with the opening, WellSpan closed its nearby WellSpan Care Express.... - [Penn Live](#), [Patriot-News](#)
- 09-18-2019 **[HIA emergency training exercise to bring fake crash, equipment to airport this weekend](#)**  
Don't be alarmed if you see a large number of emergency vehicles and personnel at Harrisburg International Airport on Saturday. Officials with Harrisburg International Airport will conduct a full-scale emergency plan training exercise starting at 9 a.m. Saturday, according to... - [Penn Live](#), [Patriot-News](#)
- 09-18-2019 **[No separation of church and cyclist needed | Editorial](#)**  
Friction over people parking in bike lanes to attend weekend worship services while cyclists struggle to safely navigate the same streets is a good reminder of the unprecedented, competing, and growing demands on Center City's constrained and finite transportation infrastructure. And... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 09-18-2019 **[When it comes to adapting street space for pedestrians, Philly needs a better road map](#)**  
Car-free urban public space is in short supply in American cities, where a clear demarcation frequently separates parkland from streetscape. It doesn't have to be that way though, as a few sites in Philadelphia have begun to show. There are parking spaces on South Street given over to... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 09-18-2019 **[PennDOT gets \\$8.4 million federal grant to study self-driving vehicles in work zones](#)**  
The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Wednesday received an \$8.4 million federal grant to study how self-driving vehicles can navigate through work zones. The grant was the largest of eight awards worth nearly \$60 million announced by U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao to study various... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 09-17-2019 **[PDA: During Farm Safety Week Agriculture Secretary Urges Driver Awareness...](#)**  
(Press Release)
- 09-17-2019 **[Rabb, PennEnvironment speak about PA's 'F' grade on plan to spend \\$118...](#)**  
(Press Release)
- 09-17-2019 **[PUC Hosts Sept. 18th 'Be Utility Wise' Education Event at Northampton...](#)**  
(Press Release)
- 09-17-2019 **[PA Given Failing Grade for Spending Volkswagen Settlement Money](#)**  
(Around the Capital)
- 09-17-2019 **[Westmoreland transit seeking new bids for bus, shared-ride services](#)**  
After a bumpy ride over the past year, including nearly a quarter-million dollars in fines, the Westmoreland County Transit Authority could move on from the company that runs its bus and shared-ride system. National Express, which in 2018 was awarded a five-year, \$29.5 million... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)



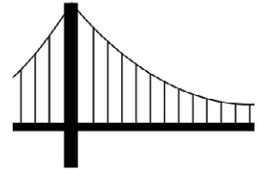
- 09-17-2019 **[Like 'em or not, roundabouts are working for Pa. drivers, PennDOT study says](#)**  
A new Pennsylvania Department of Transportation review of accident statistics suggests that the state's trend toward using roundabouts to improve traffic and enhance safety at selected intersections is paying dividends in fewer and less severe accidents. The study results, which PennDOT released Monday, found a cumulative 34... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 09-17-2019 **[Erie transit officials reviewing worker bill](#)**  
The Jake Schwab Worker's Safety Bill would require public employers to be held to the same health and safety standards as private businesses. Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority officials are currently reviewing a worker safety bill originally drafted in response to the death of an EMTA... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 09-17-2019 **[Online absentee ballot available on mobile-friendly application site](#)**  
A mobile-friendly application site for absentee ballots went into operation Monday for Pennsylvania voters. Those who apply at [votesPA.com/ApplyAbsentee](#) will receive their absentee ballot in the mail. Previously, voters could only complete a paper absentee ballot application... - [Pottsville Republican and Evening Herald](#)
- 09-17-2019 **[PennDOT: Roundabouts save lives](#)**  
Traffic roundabouts save lives and improve safety, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. Fatalities, injuries and crashes decreased overall in the area of 19 roundabouts throughout the state after they were built, PennDOT said in a news release issued Monday.... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)
- 09-17-2019 **[Crumbling bridges a concern in Somerset County](#)**  
A bridge that was built in 1914 stood in Hooversville until 2013. Officials with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation said that a structure that provides 99 years of service life meets expectations. Still that shows, both in Somerset County and across the nation, the time... - [Somerset Daily](#)
- 09-17-2019 **[Editorial: Progress on key road projects good news for Berks](#)**  
The Issue: The Penn Street Bridge reconstruction passes a milestone, and key work on Route 222 begins. Our Opinion: It's not often that roadwork is something worth celebrating, but this is one of those times. As Berks County's summer of seemingly endless road construction goes on,... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 09-17-2019 **[Berks residents, Colebrookdale Railroad founder inquire about loans to pay for flood damage](#)**  
BOYERTOWN — Colebrookdale Railroad, a tourist train that runs along the Manatawny Creek to and from Boyertown and Pottstown, suffered more than \$4 million in damage from flash flooding in July, according to its founder. "We want the railroad to survive for generations," Nathaniel Guest,... - [Pottstown Mercury](#)
- 09-17-2019 **[Pennsylvania's new online absentee ballot application ready](#)**  
Pennsylvania voters have a new option to apply online for their absentee ballot beginning today. Voters call fill out an application at [votesPA.com/ApplyAbsentee](#). Voters who apply will receive their absentee ballot in the mail. Previously, voters could only complete a paper absentee ballot application... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)



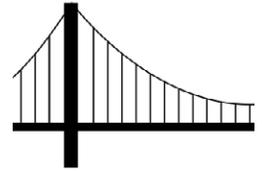
- 09-17-2019 **Northampton County in Pa.'s top 5 for most speeding tickets in a school zone**  
When it comes to speeding in a school zone, Northampton County rounded out the top five counties with the most citations last year. Out of the 3,535 speeding citations issued in 2018 across the state, Northampton County cited 192 drivers for driving 15 mph over the posted... - [Easton Express-Times](#)
- 09-17-2019 **Adopting modern methods, making voting easier are good for democracy**  
Even though it sometimes feels like it would have to move faster just to reach glacial pace, Pennsylvania's election system is slowly moving into the 21st century. Beginning Monday, voters now have an online option to apply for an absentee ballot ([www.votespa.com/applyabsentee](http://www.votespa.com/applyabsentee)). The absentee ballots will then be... - [Lewistown Sentinel](#)
- 09-17-2019 **Park & Lie**  
Some people in downtown Warren have been parking on borrowed time. At Monday night's meeting of City Council, Police Chief Brandon Deppen asked that the parking ordinance be modified. Numerous Passport App users had apparently discovered that they could park... - [Warren Times Observer](#)
- 09-17-2019 **What the G.M. Strike Looks Like**  
The Flint Assembly plant has been an integral part of General Motors for more than 70 years, turning out more than 13 million vehicles and providing the livelihood of generations of workers. But on Monday, the factory's output of Chevrolet and GMC trucks came to a halt.... - [New York Times](#)
- 09-17-2019 **After Saudi Attack, Oil Market Is on Edge: 'What if the Other Shoe Drops?'**  
Fixing the damage done by the attack on the Saudi oil processing plant may be the easy part. The hard part will be calming energy markets, where oil prices have jumped faster than at any time in over a decade. The attack on Saudi Arabia's Abqaiq plant, which accounts for 5 percent of... - [New York Times](#)
- 09-17-2019 **G.M. Workers Say They Sacrificed, and Now They Want Their Due**  
A decade ago, when General Motors was on the brink of collapse and was ushered into bankruptcy by the federal government, the company's unionized workers bore a significant portion of the pain to bring the automaker back to financial health. The United Auto Workers agreed to allow General Motors to hire significant... - [New York Times](#)
- 09-17-2019 **Maryland Gov. Hogan to head to Australia on infrastructure and trade mission**  
Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan heads to Australia on Sunday to study infrastructure issues and discuss possible economic partnerships. Hogan will visit Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney before returning Sept. 30, according to an announcement Monday from his office. The cost of the trip, which will be split between the state and the NGA,... - [Baltimore Sun](#)
- 09-17-2019 **Poll finds support for school busing to reduce segregation, but only among Democrats**  
A majority of Americans remain opposed to busing children to racially integrate schools. But opposition is not as fierce as it once was because of growing acceptance among Democrats, according to a Gallup survey released Tuesday. The poll found a deep partisan divide on busing and on the extent of racial... - [Washington Post](#)



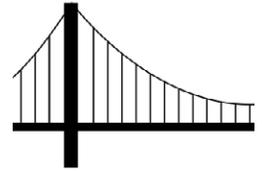
- 09-17-2019 **U.S. gas prices could jump 10 to 25 cents a gallon in response to Saudi oil cutback**  
Attacks on crucial Saudi oil installations crippled the world's second-largest oil producer and sparked new geopolitical tensions . but how much pain consumers feel will hinge on how long it takes normal output to return, experts say. The weekend drone strikes marked the biggest disruption to Saudi Arabia.s... - [Washington Post](#)
- 09-17-2019 **GM strike: 50,000 UAW workers shut down factory work as Trump says he hopes it ends quickly**  
The 49,000 workers who walked off their jobs at GM factories at midnight Sunday waded into a charged political arena that has put issues around work and livability at the front of a fierce national discussion. Representatives for both the company and United Auto Workers, which is... - [Washington Post](#)
- 09-17-2019 **Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao faces House Oversight committee investigation into alleged ethics violations**  
The House Oversight and Reform Committee on Monday sought documents from Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao as it investigates what it calls .troubling questions. into whether the Trump appointee misused her position for personal and family benefit. Noting that federal employees are forbidden from using public office for... - [Washington Post](#)
- 09-17-2019 **'I'm really struggling with how to move forward on this': South Whitehall planners not ready to recommend 780-unit Ridge Farm development**  
The planning commission, to the delight of the well over 100 residents at Springhouse Middle School, unanimously tabled a vote on whether to recommend the project for conditional use approval. Instead, the board established extensions for Kay Builders to return with... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 09-17-2019 **Philly airport workers are being forced to sign away their rights to take their employer to court**  
When Jeeva Muhil found out from her union that she and her coworkers might have signed away their rights to sue their employer, she couldn.t stop thinking about it. The so-called mandatory arbitration agreement, a recent addition to the OTG employment contract, would force workers to settle their disputes outside... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 09-16-2019 **PUC Brings 'Be Utility Wise' Consumer Education Campaign to Bethlehem...**  
(Press Release)
- 09-16-2019 **PennDOT Invites Pennsylvanians to Share Feedback on Construction...**  
(Press Release)
- 09-16-2019 **PennDOT Data Shows Pennsylvania Roundabouts Reducing Fatalities, Injuries...**  
(Press Release)
- 09-16-2019 **Gov. Wolf: PA's New Online Absentee Ballot Application Launches Today**  
(Press Release)
- 09-16-2019 **PUC: Pipeline Safety Investigation Underway Involving Subsidence Incident...**  
(Press Release)



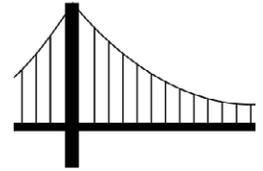
- 09-16-2019 **[PennDOT to work on Erie area roads this week](#)**  
Patching work scheduled for portions of several area roads. Pennsylvania Department of Transportation crews will patch portions of several Erie-region roads this week. Manual patching work is scheduled for Wattsburg Road, West 26th Street and West 12th Street in Millcreek Township; Ridge Road in Erie; Church Street... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 09-16-2019 **[Allegheny Township officials hope 'roundabout' intersection will fix Route 356 woes](#)**  
A new kind of road intersection will replace an old, problematic one in Allegheny Township: A "roundabout" intersection is in the works for Route 356 and La Belle Vue Road. A roundabout is a one-way, circular intersection where cars yield and merge. Roundabouts have proved to be safer than intersections with traditional... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 09-16-2019 **[Analyst: Attack on Saudi Arabia not expected to lead to major gas price hikes](#)**  
Oil prices are likely to jump after an attack on Saudi Arabia that knocked out more than 5% of global oil production, an industry analyst said. "While there is some good news that motorists should not expect a sudden and major uptick in gas prices, there may be a minor impact... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 09-16-2019 **[Lackawanna County had highest number of fatal crashes last year since 2002](#)**  
More people died on state-owned roads in Lackawanna County last year than in any year since 2002, newly released state data shows. The state Department of Transportation's yearly crash data shows that 30 people died in 28 crashes in 2018. In the past 25 years, there have only been three in which the county's... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 09-16-2019 **[Congresswoman Chrissy Houlahan holds town hall in Reading, address immigration, guns and infrastructure](#)**  
There are a lot of frustrating things involved in the daily life of a freshman legislator, said U.S. Rep. Chrissy Houlahan. "One of the great things about being in Congress is when I write a letter, they have to write back," said the Chester County Democrat who... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 09-16-2019 **['Fix' leaves fans fuming – PSU admits 'work to do'](#)**  
UNIVERSITY PARK — The sign on North Atherton Street said Park Avenue was 13 minutes away. But it took 1 hour and 43 minutes of driving in gridlock traffic to finally navigate the 2.5 miles. The parking situation for Penn State's game against Pitt on Saturday... - [Altoona Mirror](#)
- 09-16-2019 **[Media rolls out new parking plan bases on kiosks, new app](#)**  
MEDIA — Parking, parking, parking. Those are the three biggest issues in the borough, the county seat, where vying for a coveted parking spot has become something of a blood sport. Parking is among the most often talked about issues in the borough. Business persons, residents and visitors routinely come to council for... - [Primos Delaware County Daily and Sunday Times](#)
- 09-16-2019 **[Energy prices spike after Saudi oil attack, US blaming Iran](#)**  
DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Global energy prices spiked on Monday after a weekend attack on key oil facilities in Saudi Arabia caused the worst disruption to world supplies on record, an assault for which President Donald Trump warned that the U.S. was "locked and loaded" to... - [AP](#)



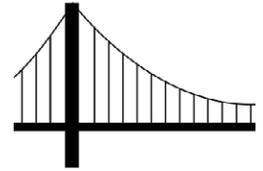
- 09-16-2019 **[Route 222 south project to ease congestion in Spring and Bern townships, Wyomissing](#)**  
Traffic congestion on Route 222 south in western Berks County is bad, and it's only going to get worse. But it will get better. PennDOT launched a \$5.7 million project Aug. 3 to improve safety on a 2-mile stretch of Route 222 through Bern and Spring townships and... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 09-16-2019 **[Norfolk Southern shows its greed](#)**  
It was disappointing to read the recent news about Norfolk Southern laying off 100 workers at the Juniata Locomotive Shop. I'm sure the Norfolk Southern PR people will call it "right sizing." Got to keep Wall Street happy. It was enlightening, however, to read the 2018 Norfolk Southern proxy... - [Altoona Mirror](#)
- 09-16-2019 **[Rail firm donates to PSU](#)**  
Pittsburgh-based Hitachi Rail STS USA is donating a signaling system to the Rail Transportation Engineering program at Penn State Altoona. Representatives from Hitachi visited the college's RTE labs on Friday to meet with students and faculty and discuss the gift of a MicroLok... - [Altoona Mirror](#)
- 09-16-2019 **[Logan: Township can't work on private roads](#)**  
At a Logan Township supervisors meeting Thursday, resident John Boors said he liked the work that Family Services Inc. does for homeless people, but thinks the supervisors should drop their idea of helping to pay for the organization's new homeless shelter — in favor of contributing... - [Altoona Mirror](#)
- 09-16-2019 **[Boeing Board to Call for Safety Changes After 737 Max Crashes](#)**  
For the past five months, a small committee of Boeing's board has been interviewing company employees, safety experts and executives at other industrial organizations in an attempt to understand how the aerospace giant could design and build safer airplanes.... - [New York Times](#)
- 09-16-2019 **[Autoworkers' Union Goes on Strike Against G.M.](#)**  
The United Automobile Workers union went on strike at General Motors, sending nearly 50,000 members at factories across the Midwest and South to picket lines on Monday morning. With the two sides far apart, U.A.W. regional leaders in Detroit voted unanimously on Sunday morning to authorize the strike, the union's first... - [New York Times](#)
- 09-16-2019 **[Prospect Park Mayor Mohamed Khairullah detained, questioned about terrorism at JFK airport](#)**  
For 13 years, Mohamed Khairullah has been the mayor of Prospect Park, N.J., a town of nearly 6,000 people where he previously worked as a volunteer firefighter. But none of that mattered when he got off a flight in August and was pulled aside by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers who questioned him for... - [Washington Post](#)
- 09-16-2019 **[United Auto Workers votes for a nationwide strike against General Motors](#)**  
About 49,000 General Motors employees walked off the job at midnight Monday after negotiations between their union and the Detroit car giant unraveled over wages, health care, job security and other issues. It is the United Auto Workers first nationwide strike since 2007.... - [Washington Post](#)



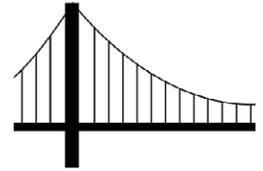
- 09-16-2019 **[PennDOT taking applications for improvement projects](#)**  
PennDOT is now accepting applications for transportation improvement projects to enhance mobility statewide. Applications will be accepted to fund improvement projects that will “enhance Pennsylvania roadways, bridges, transit facilities, park and ride facilities, sidewalk, crosswalk safety improvements, bicycle lanes and... - [Warren Times Observer](#)
- 09-16-2019 **[California bullet train's mishandling of land deals adds to mounting costs and delays](#)**  
California's bullet train project confronts an array of political and financial challenges, but its biggest problem involves mismanagement of land acquisitions, which has contributed to construction delays, cost increases, litigation and the launch of a federal audit.... - [Los Angeles Times](#)
- 09-16-2019 **[Maryland Gov. Hogan to head to Australia on infrastructure and trade mission](#)**  
Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan heads to Australia on Sunday to study infrastructure issues and discuss possible economic partnerships. Hogan will visit Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney before returning Sept. 30, according to an announcement Monday from his office. The cost of the trip and a full list of state employees who are... - [Baltimore Sun](#)
- 09-16-2019 **[Port Authority to ramp up efforts to get seniors photo ConnectCards by January](#)**  
Port Authority is off to a good start on getting new photo ID cards in the hands of its senior-citizen riders. Now, it will ramp up the effort through the end of the year so riders 65 and older can continue to receive free transit rides. Because of a change in state rules, seniors won't be able to use their... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 09-16-2019 **[Elizabeth Forward bus contract dispute continues, as company calls temporary arrangement untenable](#)**  
A bus contract dispute that delayed the start of classes last month in the Elizabeth Forward School District took another turn on Monday, once again threatening to leave some students without transportation. Pennsylvania Coach Lines, whose previous contract expired on June 30, told... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 09-15-2019 **[House Transportation considers looming funding shortfall](#)**  
The House Transportation Committee met Friday in Philadelphia to confront one of the major looming problems in the state's future: the sunset on \$400 million in annual funding that the Pennsylvania Turnpike provides to public transportation. Act 89 of 2013 established the PA Turnpike Commission allocate \$450... - [Pennsylvania Legislative Services](#)
- 09-15-2019 **[Auto workers union sets stage for possible strike against GM](#)**  
A top United Auto Workers official said the union and General Motors are far apart on major issues, increasing the likelihood of a strike as early as Sunday night... - [AP](#)
- 09-15-2019 **[U.S. retail sales rise moderately as auto buying jumps](#)**  
U.S. retail sales rose moderately in August, driven higher by a jump in auto buying and healthy online sales, evidence that consumers are still spending enough to support growth... - [AP](#)



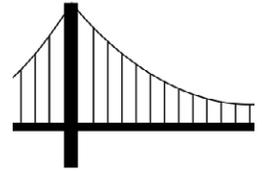
- 09-15-2019 **State data: 11,000 cited for passing school bus over four-year period**  
Nearly 11,000 citations were written in Pennsylvania between 2014 and 2018 for illegally passing a school bus and more than 20,000 issued for speeding in a school zone, according to newly released statistics. Beaver County had 105 violations for passing a school bus in the five-year... - [Beaver County Times](#)
- 09-15-2019 **PennDOT to host job fair Tuesday**  
PennDOT District 11 is inviting the public to attend a job fair hosted by the agency.s Beaver County maintenance office on Sept. 17. The job fair will be held from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Penn State-Beaver.s student union building at 100 University Drive. Recruiters will be available to discuss current and future openings within... - [Beaver County Times](#)
- 09-15-2019 **PUC official stresses energy affordability in Erie visit**  
Commissioner Andrew Place said the PUC is considering policy changes based on an affordability study. As summer turns to fall and temperatures begin to drop, Pennsylvania.s Public Utility Commission is preparing local entities to help low-income households afford services like heat and electricity through the cold... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 09-15-2019 **Consultant: Boost Erie's delinquent parking fines to \$100 after 30 days**  
Municipal Collections of America is trying to help Mayor Joe Schember.s administration collect a significant portion of more than \$3 million in overdue parking fines. In the city of Erie, the fine for an unpaid metered parking ticket starts at \$15, increases to \$25 after 10 days and rises to \$35 if the ticket... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 09-15-2019 **Editorial: Survey shows demand for better Berks transportation**  
Respondents to a survey give an abysmal rating to travel options in our area. Our Opinion: Passenger rail service is worth pursuing, but expanded intercity bus service is needed right now. A week ago we revisited the issue of Berks County's lack of transportation... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 09-15-2019 **Berks County drivers are among Pennsylvania's worst when it comes to bus-stop behavior**  
Parents won't like this, but Berks County motorists are sixth-worst in Pennsylvania when it comes to speeding in school zones and illegally passing school buses when their crossing lights are flashing. As children entered their second week back to school, the Administrative... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 09-15-2019 **Berks residents, Colebrookdale Railroad founder inquire about loans to pay for flood damage**  
Colebrookdale Railroad, a tourist train that runs along the Manatawny Creek to and from Boyertown and Pottstown, suffered more than \$4 million in damage from flash flooding in July, the founder said Friday. .We want the railroad to survive for generations,. Nathaniel Guest,... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 09-15-2019 **Penn State fans say new parking and traffic pattern only causes gridlock**  
There was no shortage of angst published on Twitter Saturday in reference to Penn State.s new parking and traffic patterns deployed during home games. The university announced it was going to change the rules last November. The idea was to focus on pedestrian safety.... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)



- 09-15-2019 **[Editorial: Surviving climate change means an end to burning fossil fuels. Prepare yourself for sacrifices](#)**  
The evidence, the expert advice, common sense . they all point to a single unavoidable conclusion: Humankind has dragged its feet for so long on the looming crisis of climate change that it is no longer looming but is upon us, and will be impossible to undo.... - [Los Angeles Times](#)
- 09-15-2019 **[G.M. and Autoworkers in Talks on New Labor Contract](#)**  
General Motors and the United Automobile Workers were working Saturday to hammer out a new labor agreement in the final hours before their current contract expires. G.M. is seeking to lower health-care costs and other expenses, while the union hopes to get the automaker to produce more vehicles at United States... - [New York Times](#)
- 09-15-2019 **[Build the Donald J. Trump Tunnel](#)**  
Last year when President Trump visited Mount Vernon, the plantation home of the country.s first president, he remarked that the founding father had missed a golden opportunity. .If he was smart, he would.ve put his name on it,. Mr. Trump said, according to news reports. .You.ve got to put your name on stuff or no one... - [New York Times](#)
- 09-15-2019 **[G.M. and Autoworkers in Talks on New Labor Contract](#)**  
General Motors and the United Automobile Workers were working Saturday to hammer out a new labor agreement in the final hours before their current contract expires. G.M. is seeking to lower health-care costs and other expenses, while the union hopes to get the automaker to produce more vehicles at United States... - [New York Times](#)
- 09-15-2019 **[Fearing 'Spy Trains,' Congress May Ban a Chinese Maker of Subway Cars](#)**  
America.s next fight with China is unfolding at a glistening new factory in Chicago, which stands empty except for the shells of two subway cars and space for future business that is unlikely to come. A Chinese state-owned company called CRRC Corporation, the world.s largest... - [New York Times](#)
- 09-13-2019 **[Malagari supports legislation to improve safety on Pa. roads](#)**  
(Press Release)
- 09-13-2019 **[Wolf Administration: Allegiant Travel Company Creates 50 New Jobs, Increases...](#)**  
(Press Release)
- 09-13-2019 **[Pennsylvania Workers and Their Unions Call For Action on Worker Safety and...](#)**  
(Press Release)
- 09-13-2019 **[PA Turnpike Commission Meeting Agenda for September 17, 2019](#)**  
(Press Release)
- 09-13-2019 **[Consultant: Boost Erie's delinquent parking fines to \\$100 after 30 days](#)**  
Municipal Collections of America is trying to help Mayor Joe Schember's administration collect a significant portion of more than \$3 million in overdue parking fines. In the city of Erie, the fine for an unpaid metered parking ticket starts at \$15, increases to \$25 after 10 days and rises to \$35 if the ticket... - [Erie Times-News](#)



- 09-13-2019 **What must the massive 780-unit Ridge Farm development do to ease traffic concerns? We'll find out Monday**  
Since the massive mixed-use Ridge Farm project was first proposed in South Whitehall, officials have raised concerns over how local roads would handle the development, which now calls for a total of 780 homes and apartments. The meeting is slated for 7 p.m. Monday at the Springhouse Middle School... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 09-13-2019 **Valley businesses warned of '20 recession**  
MIFFLINBURG — A recession looming in 2020 could erase a promising end to the 2019 economic outlook if certain steps aren't taken. Economist Anirban Basu, president and CEO of Baltimore-based Sage Policy Group, alerted Valley business leaders of the forecast during the 11th... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)
- 09-13-2019 **PSU, fans bracing for traffic hassles**  
UNIVERSITY PARK — Penn State football's matchup against Pitt on Saturday will prompt a mass traffic flow to and from Happy Valley, with fans excited for touchdowns and tailgating. What many fans aren't excited for, however, is Penn State's new parking system.... - [Altoona Mirror](#)
- 09-13-2019 **Construction continues on Gordon Nagle bridge**  
Work continued Thursday on the Route 901 Gordon Nagle Trail bridge, which crosses the West Branch Schuylkill River, near Trail Gardens in Cressona. The bridge is being replaced, but the road is still accessible by a temporary bridge. The construction is expected to be finished middle to... - [Pottsville Republican and Evening Herald](#)
- 09-13-2019 **PennDOT holds roundabout education sessions as two-lane opening nears**  
As the "Big I" roundabout nears completion, education sessions continue to help motorists learn best practices for navigating the transformed intersection — especially with a projected two-lane opening in the next few weeks. Jill Harry and Joshua Kaufer, both from the Pennsylvania Department of... - [Meadville Tribune](#)
- 09-13-2019 **I-83 lane closures near the York Split to create 'bottleneck' this weekend, more to come**  
If you are traveling Interstate 83 to Harrisburg this weekend, you can expect to see traffic backed up because of lane closures. "It'll be a bottleneck on the weekend," said Mike Crochunis, a spokesman for the state Department of Transportation. Crews will be paving the highway between Exit 41A with Route 581, also... - [York Daily](#)
- 09-13-2019 **Neighbors are using these smart cameras to track strangers' cars — and yours**  
On a quiet road south of Ventura Boulevard, two cameras on a pole watch over the road, facing opposite directions. A block away, another brace of cameras sit sentry. Together, they constantly film the two points of entry to a closed loop of public streets in Sherman Oaks.... - [Los Angeles Times](#)
- 09-13-2019 **Cranberry withdraws from PennDOT maintenance program during winter**  
Cranberry Township is withdrawing from a PennDOT program that pays a stipend to the township in exchange for township crews plowing and salting certain state highways during the winter season. The deal was costing the township money as well as wearing on the... - [Oil City Derrick](#)



09-13-2019

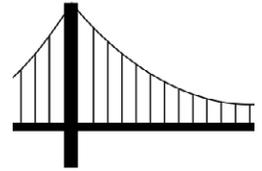
**More traffic expected Friday in Baltimore with VP Mike Pence addressing Republican retreat**

The Maryland Department of Transportation warned drivers to expect congestion from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The White House and city officials have not released information about the exact timing of Pence's visit or what roads might be closed for his motorcade. The department said drivers should plan more time for their commute and... - [Baltimore Sun](#)

09-13-2019

**Both traffic crashes, fatalities on the rise on central Ohio roads, new report finds**

Central Ohio roadways are growing more dangerous, especially if you're not the one behind the wheel. Traffic crashes and fatalities increased in the region between 2013 and 2017, according to a new plan released Thursday by the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission.... - [Columbus Dispatch](#)



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

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

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