TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT IN PENNSYLVANIA

Federal decisions to refuse to allow tolls on I-80, coupled with inaction on the recent state transportation special session and continued deferral of the 6 year Federal Transportation Reauthorization, have created the following issues for Pennsylvania:

Deterioration of Pennsylvania’s Infrastructure: The original Transportation Advisory Committee Report (May, 2010) recommended a $3.5 Billion additional annual investment to improve Pennsylvania’s transportation network. Without adequate funding we are experiencing increased congestion, weight-restricted and closed bridges, and poor surfaces on our roadways.

Immediate Job Loss: Without a long term, sustainable funding solution, Pennsylvania’s contractors, suppliers, engineers and vendors will immediately reduce staff.

No Job Creation: Pennsylvania employers struggle to retain current employees. Without action at the State level now, graduate engineers and laid-off experienced staff will have difficulty finding jobs.

Transit Cuts: Transit agencies will either face service cuts, increased fares or be forced to continue to rely on aging inefficient equipment.

Public Safety: Highways/Bridges/Transit are public facilities used by all. PennDOT has made great strides in dedicating funds to bridges; yet 5,600 state-owned structurally deficient bridges still exist in Pennsylvania. County-owned bridges total 4,500; more than half of them are structurally deficient.

CAFE Standards/Energy: Recently enacted federal laws designed to increase our nation’s energy efficiency and reduce consumption of fossil fuels is a planned erosion of transportation funding (gas tax).

Benefits of Action Now
- Quality of Life (safety, mobility, access to services)
- Job retention
- Job creation
- Economic stimulus

A recent poll by the Franklin Marshall’s Government for Policy found the 55% of registered voters support funding for Transportation if they are certain that this money will be spent on transportation.

Consequences of Inaction
- Defers responsibility to future generations
- Pennsylvania competitiveness reduced – transportation infrastructure is a litmus test of where the state will be in ten years
- Congestion – which is a daily cost to our economy
- Increased cost to consumers – farm to market, trucked/shipped goods
- Community impacts (detours, closures)
- Immediate Transit Cuts (Urban and Rural) – increased fares, reduced routes, impact to the volunteer community
- Reduced safety
- Loss of mobility
- Loss of access to services by seniors (transit)
- Increased vehicle maintenance due to reduced ride quality
What We Support:
A long-term, inflation-sensitive, comprehensive funding solution to the Commonwealth’s transportation needs.

The August 1, 2011 Transportation Funding Advisory Commission (TFAC) Report recommending new funding ($2.0-$2.5 billion), modernization and a decade of Investment. ACEC/PA supports the TFAC Report’s specific funding sources including a long-term, comprehensive solution for all modes of transportation:

- Removing the cap on the oil company franchise tax cap.
- Inflation-sensitive increases in vehicle registration and driver licensing fees as well.
- Moving the Pennsylvania State Police costs from the motor license fund to the general fund; utilizing a phased approach.
- Reallocation of Act 44 revenues.

ACEC/PA supports P-3 legislation for new asset creation; however ACEC/PA recognizes that the majority of transportation funding has and will come from the public sector, and should only be considered with an increase to the general transportation trust fund. P-3 legislation is an important tool but will not solve the funding crisis.

ACEC/PA supports legislation to enable counties and municipalities to raise revenues for transportation use.

ACEC/PA supports tolling, congestion pricing, and development of a mileage based registration fee to replace the gas tax as primary transportation infrastructure finance tools.

ACEC/PA supports a study on Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) as a replacement for the current Motor License Fund.

ACEC/PA represents the consulting engineering companies in the Commonwealth.

We are 125 companies (member firms).

We represent over 10,000 employees and their families across the Commonwealth.