

PA Transportation Recap



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Co-Sponsor Memos

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| HCO1441 | Kortz, Bill | Prohibits school bus drivers from using cellular or wireless phones, as well as the consumption of any food or beverages, while operating a school bus or school vehicle that is transporting children. |
| HCO1467 | Kortz, Bill | Prohibits motorists from using cell phones in work zones. |
| HCO2455 | Miller, Daniel | Requires infants and children traveling in a truck, regardless of weight or classification, to be safely restrained in an approved car seat or seat belt. |
| HCO2701 | Pyle, Jeff | Directs the U.S. Surface Transportation Board to carefully review any plans submitted by Canadian Pacific Railway to acquire Norfolk Southern Corporation. |
| HCO2759 | Sturla, Mike | Requires the state to reimburse school districts for their cost of providing crossing guards to ensure safe passage of school students that are required to walk or ride bikes to school. |

Bill Actions

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| HB 220 | Regan, Mike | (PN 217) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) adding that the offense of fleeing or attempting to elude police officer includes failure to remain in a stopped vehicle. The bill provides for grading of the offense to include if the offender creates a risk of injury to anyone. Effective in 60 days. |
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Bill History: 01-24-16 H Meeting cancelled for 01/25/16, House Transportation -- House Transportation
01-27-16 H Meeting set for 9:30 a.m., Room 205, Ryan Office Building, House Transportation -- House Transportation
01-27-16 H Voted from committee with request to re-refer to House, House Transportation Judiciary -- House Transportation
01-27-16 H Reported with request to re-refer to House Judiciary, House Transportation -- House Transportation
01-27-16 H Rereferred to House Judiciary

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| HB 1087 | Vereb, Mike | (PN 1493) Amends the act entitled "An act providing for joint action by Pennsylvania and New Jersey in the development of the ports on the lower Delaware River, and the improvement of the facilities for transportation across the river; authorizing the Governor, for these purposes, to enter into an agreement with New Jersey; creating The Delaware River Joint Commission and specifying the powers and duties thereof, including the power to finance projects by the issuance of revenue bonds; transferring to the new commission all the powers of the |
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Delaware River Bridge Joint Commission; and making an appropriation," adding that the governor may veto an action of a commissioner for the Commonwealth, thus voiding the action. Effective immediately.

Bill History: 01-26-16 H Reported as committed from House Appropriations
 01-26-16 H Set on the House Calendar
 01-26-16 Laid out for discussion 4:44pm
 01-26-16 Third consideration 4:44pm
 01-26-16 H Final Passage (Vote: Y:182/N: 0)

[HB 1201](#) [Taylor, John](#)

(PN 1576) Act repealing the act of May 21, 1943 (P.L.279, No.131), entitled "An act authorizing the Department of Highways and counties, cities, boroughs, towns and townships to adopt and take over as public roads and highways, certain highways taken over, located, extended or constructed by the Federal Government or any agency thereof, in the exercise of the war power, and providing the procedure therefor." Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 01-26-16 Laid out for discussion 4:55pm
 01-26-16 Third consideration 4:55pm
 01-26-16 S Final Passage (Vote: Y: 47/N: 0)
 01-27-16 H Signed in the House
 01-27-16 S Signed in the Senate

[HB 1260](#) [Burns, Frank](#)

(PN 1662) Act renaming the bridge on that portion of Township Route 431/ 436, Cooney Road, over US Route 22 in Munster Township, Cambria County, as the PFC Thomas A. Cooney Memorial Bridge.

Bill History: 12-17-15 H Set on the Tabled Calendar
 12-17-15 H Removed from the table
 01-27-16 H Set on the House Calendar
 01-27-16 Second consideration 2:11pm
 01-27-16 H Rereferred to House Appropriations

[HB 1353](#) [Moul, Dan](#)

(PN 1930) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) redefining the offense of homicide by vehicle while driving under influence and providing for grading and sentencing. The bill also provides for a lifetime license suspension for certain offenders. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 01-24-16 H Meeting cancelled for 01/25/16, House Transportation -- House Transportation
 01-27-16 H Meeting set for 9:30 a.m., Room 205, Ryan Office Building, House Transportation -- House Transportation
 01-27-16 H Voted from committee with request to re-refer to House, House Transportation Judiciary -- House Transportation
 01-27-16 H Reported with request to re-refer to House Judiciary, House Transportation -- House Transportation
 01-27-16 H Rereferred to House Judiciary

[HB 1371](#) [Burns, Frank](#)

(PN 1913) Act renaming the bridge on Tower Road spanning US Route 219 in Croyle Township, Cambria County, as the Trooper Herbert A. Wirfel Memorial Bridge. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 12-17-15 H Set on the Tabled Calendar
 12-17-15 H Removed from the table
 01-27-16 H Set on the House Calendar
 01-27-16 Second consideration 2:12pm
 01-27-16 H Rereferred to House Appropriations

[HB 1407](#) [Everett, Garth](#) (PN 1939) Act designating a bridge on State Route 2014 over the Muncy Creek in Muncy Creek Township, Lycoming County, as the Private Walter L. Smith Spanish-American War Memorial Bridge. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 01-27-16 Laid out for discussion 2:13pm
 01-27-16 H 1 Floor amendment(s) adopted
 01-27-16 Second consideration 2:15pm
 01-27-16 H Over in House
 01-27-16 H Rereferred to House Appropriations

[HB 1413](#) [Heffley, Doyle](#) (PN 2688) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), changing the inspection requirements for motor carrier vehicles with a registered gross weight in excess of 17,000 pounds from a semi-annual to annual basis, and providing that Pennsylvania motor truck businesses be refunded their registration fee if a truck is stolen or demolished, and they cannot replace the vehicle. Refunds shall be pro-rated based on the number of months the vehicle was operational. Further provides that regarding apportioned registrations, only the fees paid for the Commonwealth portion of the registration shall be eligible for a refund. Effective in 90 days. (Prior Printer Number: 1951)

Bill History: 01-27-16 Laid out for discussion 2:58pm
 01-27-16 Third consideration 2:58pm
 01-27-16 H Over in House
 01-27-16 Laid out for discussion 3:11pm
 01-27-16 H Final Passage (Vote: Y:118/N: 66)

[HB 1418](#) [Gillespie, Keith](#) (PN 2669) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in registration of vehicles, permitting owners of historic military vehicles to obtain Historic Military Vehicle License Plates. Effective in 120 days. (Prior Printer Number: 1956)

Bill History: 01-27-16 H Reported as committed from House Appropriations
 01-27-16 H Set on the House Calendar
 01-27-16 Laid out for discussion 2:59pm
 01-27-16 Third consideration 2:59pm
 01-27-16 H Final Passage (Vote: Y:190/N: 0)

[HB 1638](#) [Tobash, Mike](#) (PN 2443) Amends the Motor Vehicle Physical Damage Appraiser Act further providing for compliance with act by adding that an appraiser may prepare a repair estimate obtained by personal inspection or by photographs, videos or telephonic means. An appraiser may not require the owner of a vehicle to submit photographs or videos in order to obtain an appraisal. The appraiser shall furnish a legible copy of his appraisal with the repair shop selected by the consumer to make the repairs and also furnish a copy to the owner of the vehicle. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 2401)

Bill History: 12-07-15 H House Murt motion to recommit HB 1638 to the House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee
 12-07-15 H Final Passage (Vote: Y:116/N: 79)
 12-17-15 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Banking and Insurance
 01-27-16 S Hearing set for 9:30 a.m., Hearing Room 1, North Office Buil, Senate Banking and Insurance -- Senate Banking and Insurance
 01-27-16 S Public hearing held in committee Senate Banking and Insurance

[HB 1672](#) [Murt, Thomas](#) (PN 2478) The Snow Plow and De-icing Services Contract Liability Limitation Act provides for enforceability of certain indemnity provisions in snow plow and de-icing services contracts. The bill states a provision, clause, covenant or agreement contained in, collateral to or affecting a snow plow and de-icing services contract that purports to indemnify, defend or hold harmless, or has the effect of indemnifying, defending or holding harmless, the promisee from or against any liability for loss or damage resulting from the negligence or omissions of the promisee is against the public policy of this Commonwealth and is void and unenforceable. The bill applies to contracts entered into after the effective date. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 01-24-16 H Meeting cancelled for 01/25/16, House Transportation -- House Transportation
 01-27-16 H Meeting set for 9:30 a.m., Room 205, Ryan Office Building, House Transportation -- House Transportation
 01-27-16 H Voted from committee with request to re-refer to House, House Transportation Insurance -- House Transportation
 01-27-16 H Reported with request to re-refer to House Insurance, House Transportation -- House Transportation
 01-27-16 H Rereferred to House Insurance

[HB 1703](#) [Millard, David](#) (PN 2531) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles (ATV), further providing for operation by persons under age sixteen to abide by the age recommendation warning label affixed by the manufacture; provides that a person eight or nine years of age operating an ATV not bearing a certification label to have an engine size of 70 cc or less. Effective immediately.

Bill History: 11-13-15 H Filed
 11-16-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Tourism and Recreational Development
 01-26-16 H Meeting set for 9:00 a.m., Room 205, Ryan Office Building, House Tourism and Recreational Development -- House Tourism and Recreational Development
 01-25-16 H Meeting cancelled for 01/26/16, House Tourism and Recreational Development -- House Tourism and Recreational Development
 02-10-16 H Meeting set for 9:30 a.m., Room 60, East Wing, House Tourism and Recreational Development -- House Tourism and Recreational Development

[HB 1709](#) [Caltagirone, Thomas](#) (PN 2552) Act designating the bridge carrying U.S. Route 222 Business over the Schuylkill River, Riverfront Drive and Norfolk Southern Railroad in the City of Reading, Berks County, commonly referred to as the Bingaman Street Bridge, as the 65th U.S. Infantry Regiment, Borinqueneers Memorial Bridge. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 01-26-16 H Laid on the table
 01-26-16 H Removed from the table
 01-27-16 H Set on the House Calendar
 01-27-16 Second consideration 2:13pm
 01-27-16 H Rereferred to House Appropriations

[HB 1713](#) [Pickett, Tina](#) (PN 2566) Act designating a portion of State Route 220 in Lycoming and Sullivan Counties as the Lieutenant Commander

John J. Peterman Memorial Highway. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 12-17-15 H Set on the Tabled Calendar
 12-17-15 H Removed from the table
 01-27-16 H Set on the House Calendar
 01-27-16 Second consideration 2:13pm
 01-27-16 H Rereferred to House Appropriations

[HB 1737](#) [Maher, John](#)

(PN 2607) Amends Act 190 of 1996 providing that expired or unwanted prescription drugs and over-the-counter pharmaceutical products generated by households and collected as part of a registered collection event may be destroyed through industrial furnaces, resource recovery facilities or any other facility that renders the drugs and pharmaceutical products nonretrievable. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 12-18-15 H First consideration
 12-18-15 H Laid on the table
 01-25-16 H Set on the Tabled Calendar
 01-25-16 H Removed from the table
 02-08-16 H Set on the House Calendar

[HB 1769](#) [Day, Gary](#)

(PN 2689) Amends Title 66 (Public Utilities), in contract carrier by motor vehicle and broker, adding that "contract carrier by motor vehicle" includes any person or corporation who or which provides or furnishes transportation of household property between residential dwellings within this Commonwealth by motor vehicle for compensation, owns or operates the motor vehicle and provides or furnishes a driver of the motor vehicle for such transportation or for the use in such transportation. The bill also stipulates that a person that operates as a contract carrier by motor vehicle within paragraph (1)(ii) of the definition of "contract carrier by motor vehicle" in section 2501(b) (relating to declaration of policy and definitions) and in violation of this chapter commits an offense. The bill provides for grading. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 01-24-16 H Meeting cancelled for 01/25/16, House Transportation -- House Transportation
 01-27-16 H Meeting set for 9:30 a.m., Room 205, Ryan Office Building, House Transportation -- House Transportation
 01-27-16 H Voted from committee with request to re-refer to House, House Transportation Consumer Affairs -- House Transportation
 01-27-16 H Reported with request to re-refer to House Consumer Affairs, House Transportation -- House Transportation
 01-27-16 H Rereferred to House Consumer Affairs

[HB 1797](#) [Keller, Mark](#)

(PN 2743) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) adding autocycles as a special designation under the definition of motorcycles and providing for their registration and titling. Stipulates that autocycles are to be operated with a motor vehicle license. Includes other provisions related to seatbelt requirements, helmets and windshields. The amendment or addition of 75 Pa.C.S. 3752(a) and 3753(b)(7) are effective January 1, 2018; the remainder is effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 01-27-16 H Voted favorably from committee on House Transportation
 01-27-16 H Reported as committed from House Transportation

HB 1798	Miller, Daniel	<p>01-27-16 H First consideration 01-27-16 H Laid on the table 02-08-16 H Set on the Tabled Calendar</p>
		<p>(PN 2751) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) adding language requiring child safety restraint systems in all classes or trucks. Effective in 60 days.</p>
		<p>Bill History: 01-21-16 H Filed 01-22-16 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation</p>
HB 1814	Kortz, Bill	<p>(PN 2779) Amends Public School Code, prohibiting school bus drivers from using cellular or wireless phones, as well as the consumption of any food or beverages, while operating a school bus or school vehicle that is transporting children. Effective in 60 days.</p>
		<p>Bill History: 01-27-16 H Filed 01-28-16 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education</p>
HB 1817	Kortz, Bill	<p>(PN 2782) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in rules of the road in general, prohibiting interactive wireless communications devices in work zones. Interactive wireless communications devices include devices such as cell phones and PDAs. The bill provides for exemptions, posting, penalties, and conviction. Hands-free interactive wireless communications devices are permissible. Effective in 60 days.</p>
		<p>Bill History: 01-27-16 H Filed 01-28-16 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation</p>
HB 1824	Hanna, Mike	<p>Act designating a bridge on that portion of State Route 144 over Bald Eagle Creek, Milesburg Borough, Centre County, as the Veterans Bridge.</p>
		<p>Bill History: 01-28-16 H Filed</p>
HR 183	Miller, Daniel	<p>(PN 977) Resolution directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a comprehensive review of data maintained by the Department of Education and the Department of Human Services on the number of transition-age youth and young adults diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders.</p>
		<p>Bill History: 12-15-15 H Removed from the table 01-27-16 H Set on the House Calendar 01-27-16 H Laid on the table 01-27-16 H Removed from the table 02-08-16 H Set on the House Calendar</p>
HR 649	Pyle, Jeff	<p>(PN 2747) Resolution memorializing the U.S. Surface Transportation Board, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Transportation and Congress, to examine plans by Canadian Pacific Railway to acquire Norfolk Southern Corporation.</p>
		<p>Bill History: 01-22-16 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation 01-27-16 H Meeting set for 9:30 a.m., Room 205, Ryan Office Building, House Transportation -- House Transportation</p>

SB 93	Boscola, Lisa	<p>01-27-16 H Voted favorably from committee on House Transportation 01-27-16 H Reported as committed from House Transportation 02-08-16 H Set on the House Calendar</p>
		<p>(PN 69) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in offenses in general, to place on the driver of any motor vehicle the duty to make reasonable efforts in cleaning off snow and ice from the motor vehicle. Any person who does not is subject to being pulled over and paying a fine of \$25-\$75. If snow or ice dislodges from the motor vehicle and causes death serious bodily injury, the maximum fine is increased to \$1,500 for each violation. Effective in 60 days.</p>
		<p>Bill History: 01-14-15 S Filed 01-14-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Transportation 01-27-16 S Discussed in public hearing, Senate Transportation - - Senate Transportation</p>
SB 94	Boscola, Lisa	<p>(PN 70) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) adding language requiring any driver of a motor vehicle with a registered gross weight exceeding 48,000 pounds that is a truck tractor or combination being operated on any street or highway of the Commonwealth to make all reasonable efforts to remove all accumulated ice or snow from the motor vehicle, including the roof of the truck trailer or a vehicle in the combination. Any person who does not is subject to being pulled over and paying a fine of \$25-\$75. If snow or ice dislodges from the motor vehicle and causes death serious bodily injury, the maximum fine is increased to \$1,500 for each violation. Effective in 60 days.</p>
		<p>Bill History: 01-14-15 S Filed 01-14-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Transportation 01-27-16 S Discussed in public hearing, Senate Transportation - - Senate Transportation</p>
SB 1086	Rafferty, John	<p>(PN 1509) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), authorizing the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to suspend the registration of motorists who fail to pay tolls on the Pennsylvania Turnpike until the motorist makes the payment. Provides for reciprocity with other states. Also extends the provisions of the bill to include other authorized tolling entities within the Commonwealth.. Effective in nine months. (Prior Printer Number: 1471)</p>
		<p>Bill History: 01-20-16 S Reported as amended Senate Transportation 01-20-16 S First consideration 01-27-16 S Set on the Senate Calendar 01-27-16 Second consideration 1:25pm 01-27-16 S Rereferred to Senate Appropriations</p>
SB 1108	Scavello, Mario	<p>(PN 1503) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) adding autocycles as a special designation under the definition of motorcycles and providing for their registration and titling. Stipulates that autocycles are to be operated with a motor vehicle license. Includes other provisions related to seatbelt requirements, helmets and windshields. The amendment or addition of 75 Pa.C.S. 3752(a) and 3753(b)(7) are effective January 1, 2018; the remainder is effective in 60 days.</p>

Bill History: 01-20-16 S Reported as committed from Senate Transportation
01-20-16 S First consideration
01-27-16 S Set on the Senate Calendar
01-27-16 S Second consideration 1:25pm
01-27-16 S Rereferred to Senate Appropriations

[SR 247](#)

[Rafferty, John](#)

(PN 1434) Resolution urging USDOT to work with tank car manufacturers and owners, crude oil shippers and the rail industry in adopting a higher pool fire survivability standard and sustain the training of emergency first responders.

Bill History: 01-20-16 S Voted favorably from committee on Senate Transportation
01-20-16 S Reported as committed from Senate Transportation
01-27-16 S Set on the Senate Calendar
01-27-16 Laid out for discussion 1:26pm
01-27-16 S Adopted

Committee Stories

Senate Transportation Committee

1/27/16, 1:30 p.m., Hearing Room #1 North Office Building

By Jeff Cox

The committee conducted a public hearing on clearing snow and ice from vehicles and legislation addressing the issue.

[SB 93 Boscola, Lisa](#) - (PN 69) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in offenses in general, to place on the driver of any motor vehicle the duty to make reasonable efforts in cleaning off snow and ice from the motor vehicle. Any person who does not is subject to being pulled over and paying a fine of \$25-\$75. If snow or ice dislodges from the motor vehicle and causes death serious bodily injury, the maximum fine is increased to \$1,500 for each violation. Effective in 60 days.

[SB 94 Boscola, Lisa](#) - (PN 70) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) adding language requiring any driver of a motor vehicle with a registered gross weight exceeding 48,000 pounds that is a truck tractor or combination being operated on any street or highway of the Commonwealth to make all reasonable efforts to remove all accumulated ice or snow from the motor vehicle, including the roof of the truck trailer or a vehicle in the combination. Any person who does not is subject to being pulled over and paying a fine of \$25-\$75. If snow or ice dislodges from the motor vehicle and causes death serious bodily injury, the maximum fine is increased to \$1,500 for each violation. Effective in 60 days.

Chairman John Rafferty (R-Montgomery) announced that in the near future the committee will be conducting a joint public hearing with the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness committee on the recent snow storm and the incident on the turnpike in western Pennsylvania. He said the chairman of the Turnpike Commission Sean Logan will be presenting testimony. Chairman Rafferty commented that the hearing is "not a witch hunt" but a "way for us to have firsthand testimony from all of those involved" and make recommendations. He commended Chairman Logan for keeping the legislative leadership apprised of what was happening during the time the turnpike was closed and the recovery process. Chairman Rafferty also commended the Governor's Office for their efforts in keeping everyone apprised of the situation and keeping legislators informed. He personally thanked the State Police, the turnpike workers, and local first responders. He also thanked Sheetz, Inc. for providing water bottles to those stranded on the turnpike.

Sen. Lisa Boscola (D-Northampton), prime sponsor of the legislation, described the recent snow storm as "a sign that we not only need a hearing but we need to act on some legislation and make sure people are safe on our highways." She explained that she became involved in the issue of snow and ice removal from vehicles following the death of Christine Lambert ten years ago caused by ice that fell from a passing truck. Sen. Boscola told committee members, "This bill is about safety for motorists including truckers." She pointed out the legislation allows an exemption from the requirement if reasonable efforts are made to remove snow and ice. Sen. Boscola commented, "If this language does not satisfy the trucking industry, I would like to work with you on language you can support." She also spoke

about responsibility and the need to clear accumulated snow and ice which she said causes more damage than fresh snow. According to Sen. Boscola, various systems are available, though she acknowledged that some of those systems are expensive. She also said the clearing off of the ice and snow should occur "at warehouses, loading stations and rest stations and not on the highways."

[Scott Christie](#), Deputy Secretary for Highway Administration, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), testified, "For the 2014-15 winter season, our data from police reports show seven reportable crashes involving ice falling from a heavy truck/tractor trailer's roof and striking a trailing vehicle." He pointed out, "The methodology for arriving at this number is not exact because Pennsylvania's police crash form does not require specific documentation of this information and by law PennDOT only receives the crash forms for 'reportable crashes'." Christie explained, "These are crashes containing an injury, death, or towing of a vehicle due to damage," He continued, "Winter maintenance operations are very important to PennDOT and effectively planning and preparing for winter traffic services is a major component of our overall winter maintenance success. He added, "For the current winter season, we have budgeted \$203 million to perform winter maintenance activities on our nearly 40,000 linear miles of state highways, which comprise over 96,000 snow lane miles."

According to Christie, a successful winter at the department includes many items, with a primary focus on staffing, equipment and materials. He told the committee that the department has approximately 4,100 transportation equipment operators that are supplemented by over 700 temporary winter transportation equipment operators "that are brought in to fill gaps and ensure adequate staffing for 24 hour operations. Regarding equipment, Christie reported that PennDOT utilizes 2,254 plow trucks to maintain the highway system. He explained, "Where we have urbanized areas and higher traffic volumes, 270 contracted winter rental plows are used to supplement our fleet allowing for an adequate level of service in those areas. Christie noted the department partners with 653 municipalities "who maintain 11,240 snow lane miles of state roadway for us." He also noted that the department evaluates new technologies in spreading winter materials, plow types and various weather-related monitoring services.

Noting Christie's testimony that the department utilizes a contract meteorologist, Chairman Rafferty wanted to know if the information he or she provides any different than the ones provided by television meteorologists. Christie responded, "Yes." He explained that the department has more than one contract meteorologists. Christie emphasized the importance of the use of local computer models and timely reports. Chairman Rafferty asked if there is more efficient way to do it. Christie explained how it is "very advantageous" for the department to have someone to call.

Sen. Patrick Stefano (R-Fayette) wanted to know if PennDOT has protocols in place for keeping their trucks clear of snow and ice. John Fleming, a PennDOT supervisor, explained that 75 percent of their trucks are loaded with road salt so there is not a problem with accumulating snow and ice. He added that the cabs are kept clear. Fleming observed that "every single vehicle is checked every single day on every single shift."

[Frank Lambert](#) testified on the accident in which his wife, Christine, lost her life on Christmas Day, 2005. He told the committee, "All of our surrounding states have laws or are putting laws into effect for the removal of snow and ice." Lambert commented, "I would ask you to look around the room not only at yourselves but also the people from the Motor Truck Association, State Police or the Department of Transportation, how would you be handing this if it happened to your family, husband, wife, son, or daughter if you were the one this happened to." He concluded, "I ask that as our legislators that you would adopt a new stiffer law in my wife's name, Christine Lambert, for the removal of all snow and ice to be removed not only from trucks but any vehicles that are on our highways; it must be enforced before someone else has to go through what we live with every day of our lives."

Minority Chairman John Wozniak commented, "This is something we should do because it is the right thing to do."

Sen. Stefano commented that normally he believes "you can't legislate stupidity." He said, "I believe we need legislation."

Sen. Camera Bartolotta (R-Washington) noted that it is not just trucks and buses. She spoke about a YouTube video showing snow and ice coming off automobiles. Sen. Bartolotta argued that motorists should understand the hazards they are causing by not cleaning off snow or ice from their vehicles.

Sen. Boscola asked Lambert if the truck stopped after the ice struck their vehicle. Lambert responded, "No." Sen. Boscola then asked if the truck did not stop because the driver did not know what occurred. Lambert said, "That is

what I believe," He again argued that the legislation should apply to all vehicles. Sen. Boscola thanked Lambert for his testimony and pointed out that because of his family's tragedy several companies are now cleaning off their vehicles.

[Ted Leonard](#), Executive Director, Pennsylvania AAA Federation, acknowledged "virtually every state that experiences snow has some sort of a law regulating the removal of snow and ice from a windshield or other parts of the car before driving." He explained such laws primarily seek to minimize obstructions, and to prevent snow or ice from flying from the top of a car whilst driving. He said Pennsylvania has an existing law providing for penalties for failing to clear the top of a vehicle if not doing so causes injury to another driver.

Leonard expressed concern with the standard of "all reasonable efforts" contained in the legislation, and whether it is a provable standard in court. He said the AAA Federation nevertheless supports the "proactive approach of giving law enforcement the authority to stop a vehicle the officer believes that accumulated ice or snow on the vehicle poses a hazard."

[Major Edward Hoke](#), Director, Bureau of Patrol, Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) testified, "Each year during the winter months, PSP Troopers investigate crashes caused by accumulated snow and ice falling from vehicles." He explained that currently the Vehicle Code addresses the issue through section 3720 which deals with situations where accumulated snow or ice is dislodged or falls from a moving vehicle and strikes another vehicle or pedestrian. Hoke noted, "This section only applies in situations where it causes serious bodily injury or death." He added, "Unfortunately, there is nothing in law to cover situations where the falling snow or ice causes property damage or injuries that do not rise to the level of serious bodily injury." Hoke reported that PSP Troopers charged six drivers with violating section 3720 last winter and two drivers so far this current winter period.

Hoke told lawmakers, "The PSP supports the concepts of both of these bills; they work to help prevent a traffic crash, as opposed to the current law which only adds a penalty after a crash has occurred." He continued, "While we recognize the logistical concerns of removing snow or ice from some types of vehicles, we believe that no driver should operate a vehicle when it is in such a condition that it poses a safety risk to others. Hoke testified, "There is one area of concern we would like to point out for your consideration regarding the affirmative duty on the drive to 'make all reasonable efforts to remove all accumulated ice or snow form the motor vehicle'." He argued that the wording is "problematic" and is a "highly subjective standard and would be difficult to prove whether or not a person met it." Hoke commented, "If there is an interest, the PSP would certainly be willing to work with the sponsor to refine the language."

Sen. Stefano wanted to know if currently under section 3720 if a Trooper has the ability to pull someone over when the Trooper sees an accumulation that is s potential cause of an accident. Hoke responded, "Under section 3720, no." He added there is a windshield obstruction section under the Vehicle Code which deals with obstructions to the windshields but it does not address the other parts of a vehicle.

Sen. Bartolotta asked if there is a current statute requiring a vehicle carrying firewood or furniture to have their loads tied down properly which allows a Trooper to the pull the vehicle over. Hoke responded, "Yes there is." Sen. Bartolotta wanted to know if a truck with accumulated snow or ice could be pulled over under that section of the Vehicle Code. According to Hoke, there have been times when that section has been used but the emphasized the need to refine existing law to allow the State Police to address a situation. Sen. Bartolotta asked Hoke if he has ever investigated an accident caused by flying snow or ice. Hoke responded, "Yes."

[James Runk](#), President and CEO, Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association, said that during winter months in colder regions, snow and ice does accumulate on the top of all vehicle types, potentially causing safety issues. He said snow and ice removal is "nearly impossible" for large trucks and trailers, particularly when they are enroute or waiting to be loaded or unloaded. He advised current technology does not allow effective elimination of snow and ice at truck stopover locations, but contended "the industry has made significant improvements over the past several years to help ameliorate the problem," and committed to continuing to work with engineers and manufacturers.

In sum, Runk said, his organization is opposed to Senate Bills 93 and 94 "because the bills provide for fines against an individual operator for the mere fact that any snow or ice is found on the top of the truck and/or trailer." Additionally he said a driver would have to correct the violation prior to continuing on, potentially creating secondary hazards on highways. Runk told lawmakers that the association is willing to work with the committee on a solution to address their concerns with the legislation.

[Joe Butzer](#), President and CEO, Advantage Truck Leasing, outlined some of the difficulties the legislation could create. Noting he has researched systems remove snow from the top of trucks and trailers, Butzer commented, "I have found many viable options to remove snow that I am certain others here today will testify to, but none to remove ice." He argued, "Even if PennDOT installs and maintains free snow removal systems on every highway entering our state and every rest area throughout our state or every truck stop, I cannot fathom a way to safely remove ice from the tops of trucks." Butzer told lawmakers, "I sincerely hope that this committee wouldn't create a law making a truck driver subject to a fine for not removing snow or ice from the roof of a 13'6" high trailer that he or she cannot safely reach to remove."

Sen. Boscola said her proposal mirrors what New Jersey does, which pools the fines collected for violations of the law to develop facilities across the state to remove the snow from trucks and trailers. She told Butzer it is not her intent to have truckers climbing on the tops of their trucks to remove snow and ice. Sen. Boscola commented, "Let try to work it out."

Butzer brought up various scenarios where a truck operator does not have the opportunity to clean off his vehicle. Sen. Boscola responded that there is flexibility in the law to allow a State Trooper to determine whether the driver's excuse is legitimate and whether or not to cite the driver.

[Edgar Thompson](#), President, Teamsters Local 776, testified, "Many of the commercial freight companies employing our highly trained and very highly skilled members have snow removal/snow scrapers at their facilities." He told the committee members, "We applaud your efforts and join in supporting legislation that improves safety for the motoring public, our members and our companies." He argued that the legislation "helps to level the playing field among companies that invest in safe practices and those that unfairly compete by exploiting a legislative vacuum. Thompson also argued that "the driver is not only person who should be at risk for penalty in the context of the conditions that this legislative action seeks to address." He suggested that the dispatcher who directs a driver to ignore basic safety rules, the manager that threatens or implies retribution against the driver and the company or employer that established impossible to meet demands should also be included.

Sen. Boscola thanked Thompson for his support of her legislation.

[Joe Brake](#), Vice President/General Manager, Coca-Cola Bottling Company of the Lehigh Valley, testified about a snow scraping "contraption" developed by the company's employees to remove snow from their truck trailers. The committee members were shown a video of the equipment being used to remove snow. [Chuck Evans](#), the company's Director of Sales and Marketing, explained that the Parkland School District allowed them to see their snow removal device and company employees built their device using scrap metal from their yard.

Sen. Boscola reported that the Turnpike Commission is looking at ways to remove snow from trucks that use the turnpike.

Chairman Rafferty wanted to know how effective the device is in removing ice from the trailers. Evans responded that the device is designed to remove snow.

The following provided written testimony to the committee:

- [FedEx Ground](#)

###

House Transportation Committee

1/127/16, 9:30 a.m., Room 205 Ryan Office Building

By Jeff Cox

The committee met to consider five bills and one resolution.

At the outset of the meeting, Chairman John Taylor (R-Philadelphia) announced the committee will be having a public hearing in Philadelphia on February 4 followed by a public hearing in Harrisburg on February 8 on the funding of the State Police through the use of the Motor License Fund and a public hearing in Harrisburg on February 10 in Harrisburg regarding the Pennsylvania Turnpike's response to the recent snow storm. He also expressed the committee's condolences to the family of Rep. Ed Gainey (D-Allegheny) upon the death of his sister this past weekend.

[HR 649 Pyle, Jeff](#) - (PN 2747) Resolution memorializing the U.S. Surface Transportation Board, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Transportation and Congress, to examine plans by Canadian Pacific Railway to acquire Norfolk Southern Corporation. - The resolution was **reported as committed** with Rep. Doyle Heffley (R-Carbon) voting "no".

Rep. Jeffrey Pyle (R-Clarion), chairman of the Subcommittee on Railroads and prime sponsor of the resolution, provided an overview of the resolution. He explained that Canadian Pacific Railway has submitted an unsolicited proposal to acquire Norfolk Southern. According to Rep. Pyle, Canadian Pacific has made public statements that through the acquisition a projected \$1.8 billion in synergies would be achieved "through locomotive and rolling stock fleet reductions, rationalization of rail yards and other facilities." He noted that Norfolk Southern is the main carrier for short line railroads in western Pennsylvania and has sizeable rail yards in the commonwealth. Rep. Pyle expressed concern with the potential loss of jobs in Pennsylvania if the acquisition should take place.

Rep. Rob Matzie (D-Beaver), minority chairman of the Subcommittee on Railroads, commented that the acquisition would be "severely crippling to my district and my county."

Minority Chairman William Keller (D-Philadelphia) commented, "Railroads are the linchpin in Pennsylvania's transportation change." He spoke about how railroads are "one of the competitive advantages" for the ports in the commonwealth. Chairman Keller pointed out that transportation provides the highest paying wages for people in the commonwealth.

Rep. Doyle Heffley (R-Carbon) said that he shared the other members of the committee concerns about the necessity of railroads and the jobs they provide. He stated he would be "uncomfortable" voting for the resolution today without knowing the potential benefits and drawbacks of the acquisition so he will be voting against the resolution.

[HB 1797 Keller, Mark](#) - (PN 2743) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) adding autocycles as a special designation under the definition of motorcycles and providing for their registration and titling. Stipulates that autocycles are to be operated with a motor vehicle license. Includes other provisions related to seatbelt requirements, helmets and windshields. The amendment or addition of 75 Pa.C.S. 3752(a) and 3753(b)(7) are effective January 1, 2018; the remainder is effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Rep. Mark Keller (R-Perry), prime sponsor of the bill, offered an overview of the bill. He explained that his intent is to make it easier for an individual to purchase an "autocycle" without a motorcycle license. Noting he has a motorcycle license, Rep. Keller said he has had the opportunity to operate an "autocycle" and it is more like operating an automobile than a motorcycle.

Rep. Pyle told the committee that he has also operated an "autocycle" which he described as "more car-like than motorcycle-like."

Rep. Kate Harper (R-Montgomery) asked if an operator of an "autocycle" is required to wear a helmet. Rep. Keller responded that it would be up to the individual. Rep. Harper then asked if the bill makes "an 'autocycle' a car for some purposes but not all purposes." Rep. Keller said, "That's correct."

[HB 220 Regan, Mike](#) - (PN 217) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) adding that the offense of fleeing or attempting to elude police officer includes failure to remain in a stopped vehicle. The bill provides for grading of the offense to include if the offender creates a risk of injury to anyone. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed with a request to re-refer** to the House Judiciary Committee.

[HB1353 Moul, Dan](#) - (PN 1930) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) redefining the offense of homicide by vehicle while driving under influence and providing for grading and sentencing. The bill also provides for a lifetime license suspension for certain offenders. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed with a request to re-refer** to the House Judiciary Committee.

[HB 1672 Murt, Thomas](#) - (PN 2478) The Snow Plow and De-icing Services Contract Liability Limitation Act provides for enforceability of certain indemnity provisions in snow plow and de-icing services contracts. The bill states a provision, clause, covenant or agreement contained in, collateral to or affecting a snow plow and de-icing services contract that purports to indemnify, defend or hold harmless, or has the effect of indemnifying, defending or holding

harmless, the promisee from or against any liability for loss or damage resulting from the negligence or omissions of the promisee is against the public policy of this Commonwealth and is void and unenforceable. The bill applies to contracts entered into after the effective date. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed with a request to re-refer** to the House Insurance Committee.

[HB 1769 Day, Gary](#) - (PN 2689) Amends Title 66 (Public Utilities), in contract carrier by motor vehicle and broker, adding that "contract carrier by motor vehicle" includes any person or corporation who or which provides or furnishes transportation of household property between residential dwellings within this Commonwealth by motor vehicle for compensation, owns or operates the motor vehicle and provides or furnishes a driver of the motor vehicle for such transportation or for the use in such transportation. The bill also stipulates that a person that operates as a contract carrier by motor vehicle within paragraph (1)(ii) of the definition of "contract carrier by motor vehicle" in section 2501(b) (relating to declaration of policy and definitions) and in violation of this chapter commits an offense. The bill provides for grading. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed with a request to re-refer** to the House Consumer Affairs Committee.

###

Senate Banking and Insurance Committee

1/27/16, 9:30 a.m., Hearing Room 1, North Office Building

By Trevor J. Monk

[HB 1638 Tobash, Mike](#) - (PN 2443) Amends the Motor Vehicle Physical Damage Appraiser Act further providing for compliance with act by adding that an appraiser may prepare a repair estimate obtained by personal inspection or by photographs, videos or telephonic means. An appraiser may not require the owner of a vehicle to submit photographs or videos in order to obtain an appraisal. The appraiser shall furnish a legible copy of his appraisal with the repair shop selected by the consumer to make the repairs and also furnish a copy to the owner of the vehicle. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 2401)

The committee held a public hearing on HB 1638, which authorizes photo and video automotive insurance claim appraisals.

Chairman White noted that Sen. Tartaglione would be sitting in for Minority Chairman Sean Wiley (D-Erie) due to a death in his family.

[Sam Marshall](#), president and CEO, Insurance Federation of Pennsylvania, spoke in support of HB 1638, "this bill makes a modest and logical amendment: it allows the appraiser to consider photos at the consumer's option and after the consumer is informed that submitting photos is his or her option." He continued, "The policyholder won't have to wait for an appraiser to come to him; by using photos or videos, he can come to the appraiser. That speeds up the claims and repair process. That's good for insurers, and it is good for our policyholders, because accurate, convenient and efficient estimates get them back in their cars." He noted that photos are common in commerce and litigation, and are common in Pennsylvania in the handling of other property damage claims.

Speaking to the opposition from auto body shops, Marshall offered that following arguments:

- The bill does not do away with licensed appraisers, or dilute their responsibilities;
- The bill does not "short-change our policyholders;" and
- The bill will not lower the number of repairs or allow unsafe cars on the road.

In closing, Marshall stated, "This bill makes a difficult situation a little easier for consumers."

[Janine Merlino](#), Physical Damage Manager for the Eastern Region CSAA Insurance Group, supported HB 1638, and offered the committee the following main points:

- The legislation does not lessen the current requirements of the Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Physical Damage Appraisers License;
- The bill includes benefits to everyone involved in the auto repair process; and
- Data shows the use of digital appraisals provides benefits without harm to auto repair facilities or consumers.

Chairman White explained that he did not understand the opposition's argument. He retold the story of an accident he had in his Jeep a few months ago. He continued that at first glance the damage seemed minimal, but in reality there was substantial damage under the vehicle that a photo could not capture.

Sen. McGarrigle explained that his main concern with photo claims is safety and the unseen damages. He further argued that Pennsylvania has one of the "safest inspection program in the country" and cannot be compared to other states. He reiterated that his main concern with photo claims is safety.

Sen. McGarrigle asked if there have been any claims where the use of photos has resulted in additional damages. Merlino answered in the affirmative.

Sen. McGarrigle hypothesized a scenario in which his wife was in a minor vehicular accident, which resulted in minor aesthetic damages but more serious, unseen damages to the undercarriage. He then asked who would accept the liability if photos did not capture the damage to the undercarriage and ultimately resulted in a fuel leak that then caused the car to catch fire after making contact with the catalytic converter. Merlino contented that an in-person appraiser would not be able to see the additional damages until the damaged part of the vehicle was removed and that the same could be argued for photo claims. She expressed her belief that photo claims offer convenience and is in the best interest of the consumer and the insurance industry.

Sen. McGarrigle asked who determines if an in person appraiser should be used. Merlino said the appraiser. Merlino explained that an appraiser could determine if a photo does not meet the criteria. She noted that body shops could also send photos to an appraiser in the event that supplemental estimates are needed after the vehicle is in for repair.

Sen. McGarrigle asked if an appraiser would be sent out if the initial photo claim estimate is lower than what the auto body shop sees fit to fix a vehicle. Merlino said it depends on the extent of the damage. She remarked that photo claims are not meant to take away authority from appraisers and "it is used where it makes sense." Marshall added that under current law phone conversations regarding a claim are technically unlawful, but that is how most claims are handled. He continued that the insurance industry does not want policyholders to be upset and that is why the industry believes that safety is paramount. He added that the industry is not sacrificing safety and that all vehicles will still require state inspections.

Sen. McGarrigle used the same hypothetical accident, and asked what would occur if a policyholder decides to wait a few months before having their vehicle repaired and additional damages are found at a later date. Merlino explained that there is not time limit once a policyholder submits a claim. She further explained that if additional damages are found and attributable to the initial accident, a policyholder can request a supplemental estimate. Marshall added that an insurer is "on the hook" until the vehicle is fixed. He noted that the claim does not change depending on whether a photo or in person appraiser was used.

Sen. Tartaglione asked if photo claim fraud is a concern. Merlino stated that the insurance industry and appraisers deal with fraud on a daily basis. She went on to explain that there is always the possibility of increased incidents of fraud, but expressed her belief that photo claims would not result in a significant increase. Merlino reasoned that photo claims will not take away from the consumer or the insurers and would not dramatically reduce the number of claims appraisers in the field.

Sen. Tartaglione asked if an in person claims appraiser could still be utilized if photos did not provide enough detail. Merlino answered in the affirmative and said that is an option.

Sen. Vance asked if photo claims are generally utilized for minor vehicle damages. Merlino said photo claims can be used for minor damages and if the general consensus is that a vehicle is totaled.

Sen. Vance asked how an insurer could verify that the photos are of the correct vehicle. Merlino said insurers already have all the information associated any vehicle they cover. She explained that appraisers would use that information including the make, model, and color of the vehicle to ensure that it is the correct vehicle. She noted that instances of fraud have not increased with the implementation of photo claims.

Sen. Yaw asked if the consumer and the insurer have to agree to use a photo claim. Merlino answered in the affirmative and said insurers would not force consumers to use the technology.

Sen. Yaw asked if a consumer could challenge an appraiser's estimate if photo claims are used. Merlino answered in the affirmative and said a consumer can challenge an estimate just as they would if they disagree with an in-person appraiser.

Sen. Yaw asked if an appraiser has the authority to tell a claimant that they should not drive their vehicle after an accident. Merlino said appraisers can recommend that the car should not be driven.

Sen. Eichelberger commented insurance fraud is a serious offense and expressed his view that insurers and appraisers are professionals that offer checks and balances in the system. He asked if an insurer can make the determination to send an appraiser. Merlino answered in the affirmative.

[Diane Klund](#), director of Government Affairs for AudaExplore, spoke in support of the legislation and detailed AudaExplore's history of automated estimating systems. "Since the Appraiser Act was enacted in Pennsylvania several decades ago, technology in the insurance claim industry has advanced exponentially. Smartphones now have better cameras than digital cameras did a few years ago. Digital photos and smartphone technology have facilitated more accurate, faster and consumer-friendly insurance claims settlements. The new technology involves, informs, and empowers insurance consumers." She explained how the AudaExplore GoTime Driver app allows policyholders to make claims from anywhere. She also noted that the digital photo inspection is recommended for smaller losses when estimating and providing supplements. Klund added that photo claim also acts as a fraud deterrent

In closing, Klund said, "Consumers expect to be able to communicate with insurers, and conduct businesses on their time. Consumers want to be an active participant in the process and be empowered with information. Mobile applications provide an optional solution to those consumers in 47 states. Mobile applications such as AudaExplore's GoTime Driver facilitate fair, accurate, and faster claim service by empowering the consumer."

Related to AudaExplore's mobile claims app, Sen. McGarrigle asked who decides what auto body shop a vehicle will be taken to. Klund said the insurance company decides. She further explained that the app allows consumers to choose auto body shops from across that state and that the app recognizes and follows state "anti-steering requirements."

[Ross Di Bono](#), executive director for Pennsylvania Association of Automotive Traders, spoke in opposition to the legislation and opened his testimony by declaring Pennsylvania is a safe driving state. "Pennsylvania's lucky, we're special," he said. "Over the years many states have adopted safety inspection programs and based their programs on Pennsylvania's program. We have become the pedagogue for state's who have adopted a safety inspection program," he said. He further made statements to stress to the committee that there is no finer program than in Pennsylvania.. He stated, Pennsylvania's safety inspection ensures drivers' safety. Di Bono topped his remarks by posing a question to the committee, "Would you feel comfortable sending photos of your car to your repair shop to make the committee put the debate in their own personal perspective?"

[Mark Vettori](#), Hunt Collision Services, Fairless Hills, briefly spoke in opposition to HB 1638, and discussed how the Pennsylvania consumer would feel about photo claims. "What insurance companies are proposing is to change the law to put all the negative repercussions on the consumer in Pennsylvania."

In closing, Vettori stated, "We're seeing the exact opposite. Unless the appraiser comes out to inspect your car, you would never know if it was safe to drive or unsafe to drive," alluding to the idea that unsafe cars may be put on the road after an accident.

[Stehen Behrndt](#), Crawford's Auto Center, Inc, Downingtown, provided an abbreviated history of automotive appraisals in Pennsylvania and explained why photo estimating is not good for vehicle owners. He provided the committee with a brief history of the Appraiser Law passed in 1972, which he argued was an attempt to control market behavior and the conduct of insurance appraisers. He emphasized the conduct from shops that would not participate in partnered repair shops for a percentage of the written appraisal, and how they would underwrite the damage on the consumer's vehicle in retaliation. He also noted the federal investigation that was done by the Justice Department in the early 1960s of an insurance company scheme known as "The Plan."

Behrndt continued to reiterate the purpose of The Pennsylvania Motors Vehicle Physical Damage Act is to protect the consumers of the Commonwealth, and emphasized that their automobile is their second most valuable

investment. He provided sections of the current Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Physical Damage Appraiser Law with his testimony.

Charles Barrone, Independent Appraiser, Auto Claims Solutions, also spoke in opposition to the legislation and retold the story of a recent instance where a vehicle went into an auto body shop with \$177 worth of damages. He continued that by the time the car was fully repaired the additional supplements totaled \$3,626.25

He added, "Pennsylvania has one of the strongest consumer bills passed in 1972. By today's standards those cars are dinosaurs. It's more important than ever that appraisers are inspecting these vehicles. There are a lot of faulty repairs; insurance companies will issue a check."

Sen. Yaw asked if an appraiser has the right to take a vehicle off the road or if an appraiser has to suggest that a vehicle be taken off the road to "cover your tail." Behrndt expressed his belief that the appraiser has the right to do both.

Sen. Yaw asked if an auto body shop is responsible for reporting unseen damages to the insurance company and the customer. Vettori said he would immediately tell the customer.

Sen. McGarrigle asked if insurance companies using photo claims it breaking the law in Pennsylvania. Behrndt answered in the affirmative.

Chairman White stated that he still needs to be convinced that this would be a useful tool for the industry. He commented that there are always good professionals and bad professionals.

###

House Appropriations Committee

1/27/16, 11:45 a.m., 140 Main Capitol

By Elly Henry

The committee met to consider bills.

[HB 1418 Gillespie, Keith](#) - (PN 2669) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in registration of vehicles, permitting owners of historic military vehicles to obtain Historic Military Vehicle License Plates. Effective in 120 days. (Prior Printer Number: 1956) - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1413 Heffley, Doyle](#) - (PN 2688) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), changing the inspection requirements for motor carrier vehicles with a registered gross weight in excess of 17,000 pounds from a semi-annual to annual basis, and providing that Pennsylvania motor truck businesses be refunded their registration fee if a truck is stolen or demolished, and they cannot replace the vehicle. Refunds shall be pro-rated based on the number of months the vehicle was operational. Further provides that regarding apportioned registrations, only the fees paid for the Commonwealth portion of the registration shall be eligible for a refund. Effective in 90 days. (Prior Printer Number: 1951) - The bill was **reported as committed** by a vote of 19-12, with Republicans voting in the affirmative and Democrats in the negative.

###

House Appropriations Committee

1/26/16, 2:15 p.m., 140 Main Capitol

By Elly Henry

The committee met to consider bills.

Vice-Chairman Mark Mustio (R-Allegheny) prefaced the meeting to alert members that he would be acting on behalf of Chairman Bill Adolph (R-Delaware).

Chairman Joe Markosek, urged all committee members to vote in the affirmative, saying that the near \$20 million in funding was well-intentioned and necessary, but reminded members to be cognizant of the fact that the state will need to find new sources of revenue in the near future.

[HB 1087 Vereb, Mike](#) - (PN 1493) Amends the act entitled "An act providing for joint action by Pennsylvania and New Jersey in the development of the ports on the lower Delaware River, and the improvement of the facilities for transportation across the river; authorizing the Governor, for these purposes, to enter into an agreement with New Jersey; creating The Delaware River Joint Commission and specifying the powers and duties thereof, including the power to finance projects by the issuance of revenue bonds; transferring to the new commission all the powers of the Delaware River Bridge Joint Commission; and making an appropriation," adding that the governor may veto an action of a commissioner for the Commonwealth, thus voiding the action. Effective immediately. The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

###

PA Bulletin

[THE GOVERNOR: PROCLAMATIONS: PROCLAMATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY](#)

Gov. Tom Wolf issued a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency on January 21, 2016 due to severe winter weather. This Proclamation of Disaster Emergency may be found in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

Upcoming Events

PA State Transportation Advisory Committee

February 1, 2016 - 10:00 a.m., Conference Room 8N1, 8th Floor, Commonwealth Keystone Building, 400 North Street, Harrisburg

Committee Meeting. For additional information: (717) 787-2913

Delaware River Port Authority/PATCO

February 2, 2016 - 9:00 a.m., 11th Floor Board Room, One Port Center, 2 Riverside Drive, Camden NJ

Operations & Maintenance Committee Meeting. For additional information: (856) 968-2253

Delaware River Port Authority/PATCO

February 2, 2016 - 10:30 a.m., 11th Floor Board Room, One Port Center, 2 Riverside Drive, Camden NJ

Labor Committee Meeting. For additional information: (856) 968-2253

Senate Transportation (PUBLIC HEARING)

February 2, 2016 - 9:30 a.m., Hearing Room 1, North Office Building

Public hearing on the delay and delivery of transportation projects

PA Turnpike Commission

February 2, 2016 - 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

State Board of Vehicle Manufacturers, Dealers and Salespersons

February 2, 2016 - 9:00 a.m., 2601 North Third Street, Harrisburg

Board Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-1697

House Transportation (PUBLIC HEARING)

February 4, 2016 - 1:00 p.m., SEPTA Boardroom, 1234 Market St, Philadelphia

Public hearing on: [HB 1742](#) White, Martina Amends Title 74 re freight train crew

PBPC to Make Recommendations on State Budget (UNCONFIRMED)

February 2, 2016 - 11:00 a.m., Main Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg

Press Conference

House Transportation (PUBLIC HEARING)

February 8, 2016 - 11:30 a.m., Room 205, Ryan Office Building

Public hearing on State Police funding through the Motor License Fund

Governor's Budget Address

February 9, 2016 – 10:00 a.m., Harrisburg
Press Conference

Delaware River Port Authority/PATCO

February 10, 2016 - 9:00 a.m. - 11th Floor Board Room, One Port Center, 2 Riverside Drive, Camden NJ
Finance Committee Meeting. For additional information: (856) 968-2253

Delaware River Port Authority/PATCO

February 10, 2016 - 10:30 a.m. - 11th Floor Board Room, One Port Center, 2 Riverside Drive, Camden NJ
Audit Committee Meeting. For additional information: (856) 968-2253

House Transportation (POSTING CHANGE)

February 10, 2016 - 8:30 a.m., Room 140 Main Capitol (Note time change from 9:30am)
Public hearing on PA Turnpike storm response for snow event January 22
and 23, 2016

House Tourism and Recreational Development

February 10, 2016 - 9:30 a.m., Room 60, East Wing
To consider: [HB 1703 Millard, David](#) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles, further
providing for operation by persons under age sixteen.

PA Public Utility Commission

February 11, 2016 - 10:00 a.m. - Commonwealth Keystone Building, Hearing Room 1, 400 North St., Harrisburg
Public Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-1740

Session Schedule

Senate

February 8, 9, 10
March 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23
April 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13
May 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18
June 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

House

February 8, 9, 10
March 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23
April 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13
May 2, 3, 4, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25
June 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

In the News

- 01-28-2016 [Pro-Jobs Transportation Legislation Advances, Says Heffley](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-28-2016 [CNX Coal Resources LP Announces Results for the Fourth Quarter 2015](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-28-2016 [PennDOT Crews Helping Municipalities With Snow Clean Up](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-28-2016 [Triumph Group Reports Third Quarter Fiscal 2016 Results](#)
(Press Release)

- 01-28-2016 [Constellation contracts ABB to supply seven ENVILINETM ESS to the SEPTA network](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-28-2016 [Allegheny County Airport Authority CEO reflects on 1st year](#)
Christina Cassotis seems to have the recipe for selling airlines on Pittsburgh. She starts by reminding them that Google has a big presence here. She discusses Uber and its association with Carnegie Mellon University. And she mentions the thriving arts scene and the fact that the U.S Open golf... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 01-28-2016 [TRAFFIC: Stretch of Turnpike westbound to close at 9 a.m.](#)
An 86-mile stretch of the Pennsylvania Turnpike will be closed today to give workers more time to remove a tractor-trailer caught in the weekend snowstorm. The westbound lanes will close for about three hours starting about 9 a.m. from Breezewood to New Stanton.... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 01-28-2016 [The turnpike debacle is a huge embarrassment to Pa.](#)
I have never been more embarrassed by Pennsylvania than this past weekend. The problems that afflicted thousands of people on the Pennsylvania Turnpike are another example of incompetence by this governor ("Storm Turns Turnpike Into a Parking Lot," Jan. 24).... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 01-28-2016 [Allegheny County Airport Authority CEO reflects on 1st year](#)
Christina Cassotis seems to have the recipe for selling airlines on Pittsburgh. She starts by reminding them that Google has a big presence here. She discusses Uber and its association with Carnegie Mellon University. And she mentions the thriving arts scene and the fact that the U.S Open golf... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 01-28-2016 [Pittsburgh City Council moves to allow bicyclists on wooded paths in parks](#)
Pittsburgh City Council on Wednesday advanced legislation that would permit bicyclists to ride on wooded paths in city parks. A city ordinance that has not been enforced prohibited mountain biking on narrow park trails, said Councilman Corey O'Connor, who sponsored an... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 01-28-2016 [Old Hulton Bridge likely to live on in W.Pa. construction project](#)
Alle-Kiski Valley residents may not have seen the last of the old Hulton Bridge. Its steel someday could end up in a local construction project once it is recycled by P.J. Greco Sons Inc. John Greco, owner of the East Deer scrap yard named after and founded by... - [Tarentum Valley News Dispatch](#)
- 01-28-2016 [PECO rewards Parking Authority for airport energy savings](#)
The Philadelphia Parking Authority has received a \$121,742 rebate from Peco Energy Co. for installing 1,400 energy-efficient LED lights on the terminal arrivals roadway at Philadelphia International Airport between Terminals A to F. The new lights, which replaced high-wattage conventional lighting, are... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 01-28-2016 [Do lawmakers really need to play the 'Blizzard Blame Game?': Editorial](#)
With the highways and byways leading to Harrisburg freshly cleared, lawmakers in the Pennsylvania state House and Senate are making a beeline for the Capitol's legislative hearing rooms, all the better to assign blame for last week's rash of motorist strandings on the Pennsylvania Turnpike.... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 01-28-2016 [Truck retrieval to close portion of Pennsylvania Turnpike](#)
BREEZEWOOD, Pa. Motorists will face detours when workers close an 86-mile stretch of the Pennsylvania Turnpike... - [AP](#)

- 01-28-2016 [Philadelphia eyes use of drones for emergencies, services](#)
PHILADELPHIA Officials in Philadelphia are looking at the idea of using drones to aid in public safety and improve government services, including aiding emergency crews in handling fires, storms and other dangerous conditions... - [AP](#)
- 01-28-2016 [Patton Township approves Nittany Valley Sports Centre master plan](#)
PATTON TOWNSHIP The long-awaited Nittany Valley Sports Centre took another step toward realization Wednesday when the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a master plan for the facility and the parcel on which it sits. Initial approval of a center master plan was made about a year ago,... - [State College Centre Daily Times](#)
- 01-28-2016 [Mack's parent company to reorganize truck businesses](#)
Mack Trucks' parent company is letting the iconic heavy-duty truck manufacturer stand on its own wheels. The Volvo Group is planning to reorganize its truck operations into four separate units — Mack Trucks, Volvo Trucks, UD Trucks and Renault Trucks — giving each profit-and-loss responsibility for their... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 01-28-2016 [Airport authority recovers financial documents; adds funding to project](#)
DUNBAR TWP. — The discovery of financial documents tied to an earlier project will net the Fayette County Airport Authority an additional \$289,000 for its planned hangar project. - [Uniontown Herald-Standard](#)
- 01-28-2016 [PennDOT to help clear streets in Reading](#)
Reading, PA PennDOT crews are set to begin clearing snow in the city overnight and into Thursday morning, following a request for help from state Sen. Judy Schwank and state Reps. Thomas R. Caltagirone and Mark Rozzi. "This is an emergency," Caltagirone said Wednesday night of the state of... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 01-28-2016 [Sinnott: EMTA changes unnecessary](#)
ERIE, Pa. -- The Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority is already regional, serving riders throughout Erie County. City of Erie officials say EMTA's current structure works well. And language within the state's Municipal Authorities Act would ensure that the region's largest public transit company continues to operate for many... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 01-28-2016 [Like death and taxes, you can count on this](#)
First, please forgive us for repeating ourselves, but when a serious problem goes unresolved and has the potential to get even worse, we feel compelled to speak out about it until there is some acceptable solution. The issue is this: People of advanced age who really have no business doing... - [Washington Observer-Reporter](#)
- 01-28-2016 [State police: Motorists must brush snow off vehicles before driving](#)
The Pennsylvania vehicle code requires drivers to keep their vehicle and its windows clear of snow and ice. - [Warren Times Observer](#)
- 01-28-2016 [Rep. Pickett spearheads bill to name part of Route 220 after local veteran, community volunteer](#)
HARRISBURG — Legislation to honor the memory of a local public servant and military officer from Sullivan County is on its way to the state Senate after passing the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Wednesday, said Rep. Tina Pickett (R-Bradford/Sullivan/Susquehanna), author of the... - [Towanda Daily Review](#)
- 01-28-2016 [Johnstown airport should get military radar system, politicians say](#)
Pennsylvania's entire congressional delegation – with U.S. Rep. Keith Rothfus, R-Sewickley, at the forefront – has asked the Air Force to locate a Deployable Radar Approach Control system with the 258th Air Traffic Control Squadron at the John Murtha Johnstown–Cambria County... -

[Johnstown Tribune-Democrat](#)

- 01-28-2016 ['Rapid' replacement of Hydetown bridge and others subject of meeting](#)
 Seven bridges in Crawford County will soon be replaced, by way of PennDOT's Rapid Bridge Replacement Project. The seven bridges are due to be replaced, this year. Set for replacement are the following bridges: — Vernon Township, state Route 6, Grand Army Highway, over a tributary... - [Titusville Herald](#)
- 01-28-2016 ['I thought I was going to die': Woman stranded on turnpike in blizzard](#)
 Mystic Lindstrom often complains about the lake-effect storms that dump more than 4 feet of snow on her hometown each winter. Not anymore. Lindstrom, 21, said the storms in Corry, Erie County, don't seem quite as bad compared to what she went through last weekend. She and her friend,... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 01-28-2016 [Scheduled closure of Pa. Turnpike to begin Thursday morning](#)
 Officials will close the westbound lanes of an 86-mile stretch of the Pennsylvania Turnpike for approximately three hours starting about 9 a.m. Thursday from Breezewood to New Stanton... - [AP](#)
- 01-28-2016 [Ford's Annual Profit Surges to \\$7.4 Billion](#)
 DETROIT — Ford Motor, the nation's second-largest automaker, said on Thursday that it earned \$7.4 billion last year, primarily because of strong sales in its core North American market. The results were a major improvement over the \$1.2 billion that the company... - [New York Times](#)
- 01-28-2016 [Pa. residents fighting Trenton-Mercer flyovers ask town for money](#)
 EWING — A group of Bucks County, Pa. residents who oppose the number of flights in an out of Trenton-Mercer Airport recently asked the town of Lower Makefield, Pa. for money for their legal efforts. The town's governing body did not seem too receptive, the Bucks County... - [Trenton Times](#)
- 01-28-2016 [Blizzard of issues for turnpike](#)
 In a neat bit of Pennsylvania government symmetry, the dysfunctional state House — which is primarily responsible for Pennsylvania not having a state budget nearly seven months after it was due — plans to examine the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission's late response to last week's... - [Pottsville Republican and Evening Herald](#)
- 01-28-2016 [Train control towers planned throughout Montgomery, Berks counties](#)
 Norfolk Southern is planning on building seven 60-foot tall train control towers in Montgomery County and 12 more in Berks County. The towers are a step in fulfilling requirements put into place by the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 to have positive train control... - [Pottstown Mercury](#)
- 01-28-2016 [Massive potholes develop on Route 422 westbound](#)
 North Coventry >> The effects of Winter Storm Jonas could still be felt westbound on Route 422, as motorists tried to avoid close to 40 potholes in the highway Wednesday. PennDOT said it wasn't aware of the issue but would take care of the problem. The potholes, some of which were several feet wide, covered the single lane... - [Pottstown Mercury](#)
- 01-28-2016 [Turnpike needs turnaround plan](#)
 Another snowstorm, another accident on the turnpike, and again hundreds are stranded. Why can't those responsible for public safety figure out that there need to be gates or some mechanism at regular intervals on divided highways? Then people in vehicles could, under police supervision, turn around and get... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 01-28-2016 [Adams County bridge closed for repairs](#)

PennDOT closed a covered bridge in Adams County this week after an inspection revealed damage. The Jack Mountain Bridge, which carries Jacks Mountain Road over Toms Creek in Carroll Valley Borough, will remain closed for several weeks as crews complete repairs. The bridge recently sustained damage to wooden beams and... - [Hanover Evening Sun](#)

- 01-28-2016 [Norfolk profits down](#)
OMAHA, Neb. - Norfolk Southern Corp.'s fourth-quarter profit slid 29 percent as the railroad delivered 6 percent less freight... - [AP](#)
- 01-28-2016 [Overdose cited in death of man who died in scuffle with SEPTA police](#)
A man who died during a scuffle with a SEPTA police officer in October suffered a drug overdose, and his death has been ruled accidental, according to the Philadelphia Medical Examiner's Office. Omar Lopez, 24, of Kensington, died minutes after the officer Tasered him... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 01-28-2016 [Uber success: Ride-hailing service celebrates first year in Harrisburg](#)
During its first year in Harrisburg, Uber provided tens of thousands of rides to people looking to travel in the midstate. Now, the ride-hailing service is looking to improve on their local success. Uber launched in Harrisburg to much fanfare in January 2015. It was praised... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 01-27-2016 [Senate Hearing Focuses on Sen. Boscola's Requiring Snow and Ice Removal from...](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-27-2016 [Antero Resources Announces 4% Increase in Proved Reserves to 13.2 Tcfe](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-27-2016 [PennDOT: Hours of Service Waiver Extends Maximum Driving Time for Motor...](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-27-2016 [PHIA: Turnpike, PennDOT Challenged By Storm](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-27-2016 [BLOG: Blizzard 2016 in Review](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-27-2016 [Senate Transportation - FedEx](#)
(Testimony)
- 01-27-2016 [Senate Transportation - Teamsters Local 776](#)
(Testimony)
- 01-27-2016 [Senate Transportation Committee - Pennsylvania State Police](#)
(Testimony)
- 01-27-2016 [Senate Transportation - PennDOT Highway Administration Deputate](#)
(Testimony)
- 01-27-2016 [Senate Transportation - Coca-Cola Bottling Companies](#)
(Testimony)
- 01-27-2016 [Senate Transportation - Advantage Truck Leasing](#)
(Testimony)

- 01-27-2016 [Senate Transportation - Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association](#)
(Testimony)
- 01-27-2016 [Senate Transportation - AAA Federation](#)
(Testimony)
- 01-27-2016 [Senate Transportation - Frank and Matthew Lambert](#)
(Testimony)
- 01-27-2016 [Hulton Bridge comes down](#)
After two years of construction on its replacement and two months of being stripped down to its shell, the old Hulton Bridge needed only about 10 seconds Tuesday to drop into the Allegheny River. Brayman Construction Corp. crews immediately moved in with barges, cranes... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 01-27-2016 [Westbound lanes of Turnpike to close today near Breezewood](#)
Motorists who want to use the Pennsylvania Turnpike westbound this morning will be forced to exit the highway at Breezewood for three hours or more while crews remove a tractor-trailer that went over an embankment near Bedford last week. The turnpike said in a news release Monday that the best alternative is for... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 01-27-2016 [Drivers shouldn't be on the road during a blizzard](#)
I am miffed at the criticism leveled at the governor, PennDOT, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency about the response to the 500-vehicle backup on the turnpike during last weekend's blizzard ("Rig Collision Started Turnpike Jam,"... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 01-27-2016 [Hulton Bridge falls into history](#)
The flames of a blowtorch sliced through the remains of the Hulton Bridge, its steel trusses resting upright in the Allegheny River on Tuesday afternoon, a few hours after the 2,200 tons of steel dropped with a rumble felt 10 miles away in Tarentum. "Everything went exactly as planned," said Karlene Durso, project... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 01-27-2016 [Storm fallout](#)
The finger-pointing has shifted into high gear over last weekend's Pennsylvania Turnpike snowstorm mess. More than 500 vehicles became stranded on a 16-mile stretch between Bedford and Somerset. Tractor-trailers that couldn't make it up one mountainside (and now accused of acting recklessly) created nearly 30 hours of gridlock.... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 01-27-2016 [17 vacant Arnold lots to become new HQ for trucking company](#)
Arnold apparently is going to be the new home for a local trucking company. The Arnold Redevelopment Authority agreed Tuesday night to sell 17 vacant lots along Third Avenue to Chester Pirolo of Pirolo Transport. According to authority Chairman Jay Johnston, Pirolo is along Russellton... - [Tarentum Valley News Dispatch](#)
- 01-27-2016 [Plans to close portion of Pennsylvania Turnpike postponed](#)
BREEZEWOOD, Pa. (AP) - Officials have postponed plans to close an 86-mile stretch of the Pennsylvania Turnpike because workers need more time to prepare to retrieve a tractor-trailer that went over an embankment during the weekend's snow storm... - [AP](#)
- 01-27-2016 [When snow kills bus service, Philly's workers suffer](#)
For the second day straight Angel Caesar looked grimly forward to trekking home from work without the bus to get her there. She usually takes the Route 33 bus between her home at 17th and Diamond streets to Plymouth Hall on 22nd, a senior housing development where she... -

[Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

- 01-27-2016 [**Last chance to build FedEx plant in Allen Township?**](#)
 It's make or break time for the New York developer of the \$335 million FedEx Ground plant in Allen Township. The Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority on Tuesday gave the Rockefeller Group a 90-day extension to begin building the massive package distribution plant along Willowbrook Road.... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 01-27-2016 [**Pa. Turnpike chairman: 'We could have done better'**](#)
 Pennsylvania Turnpike Chairman Sean Logan apologized after hundreds were left stranded on the highway for more than 24 hours during the weekend's massive snowstorm. "Given the magnitude of this event, we unquestionably need to examine the response and decision-making process undertaken," Logan said in a statement... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 01-27-2016 [**Plans to close portion of Pennsylvania Turnpike postponed**](#)
 BREEZEWOOD, Pa. Officials have postponed plans to close an 86-mile stretch of the Pennsylvania Turnpike because workers need more time to prepare to retrieve a tractor-trailer that went over an embankment during the weekend's snow storm... - [AP](#)
- 01-27-2016 [**Four days, five crashes, 10 lives lost**](#)
 Three were college students. Three others were co-workers. At least two had young children. In homes, in workplaces and in communities across Northeast Pennsylvania on Tuesday, tears marked sorrow, grief tested faith and remembrance strengthened broken human hearts.... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 01-27-2016 [**After wrong-way crashes, PennDOT checks signs**](#)
 In the past three months, five people died and four were injured in three wrong-way crashes on Interstate 81 in Lackawanna County. The crashes occurred within an 11-mile span of highway after three drivers were heading north in the southbound lane. Two drivers were arrested on... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 01-27-2016 [**PennDOT should oversee turnpike commission**](#)
 In a neat bit of Pennsylvania government symmetry, the dysfunctional state House — which is primarily responsible for Pennsylvania not having a state budget nearly seven months after it was due — plans to examine the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission's late response to last week's... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)
- 01-27-2016 [**Local projects receive state grant funding**](#)
 Two local projects have received Community Conservation Partnership Program grants through the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. "These state grant dollars will support worthy local initiatives that will enhance our region's recreational offerings for families and... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)
- 01-27-2016 [**Pa. Turnpike assesses response to weekend shutdown**](#)
 The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission is taking a look at what it did right, did wrong or may have neglected to do during a blizzard that stranded hundreds of travelers for up to 24 hours over the weekend. The commission Monday launched a review of its management of the crisis.... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 01-27-2016 [**'Don't sell yourselves for a traffic light,' attorney tells Palmer supervisors**](#)
 An attorney for opponents to a 312-apartment plan urged the Palmer Township supervisors not to be seduced by \$1 million in road improvements and a traffic signal. Attorney Gary Asteak on Tuesday argued against the Palmer Point apartment plan advanced by developer Lou Pektor at 3100 Charlotte Ave., an abandoned... - [Easton Express-Times](#)

- 01-27-2016 [**FedEx is considering Bethlehem for massive distribution hub over airport land**](#)
After working since 2013 for a new ground distribution center in Allen Township, FedEx is now considering an alternative site in Bethlehem. Word of the possible Plan B comes as the city on Jan. 12 received plans for a new 981,321-square-foot warehouse and distribution facility on 131 acres... - [*Easton Express-Times*](#)
- 01-27-2016 [**PennDOT: Road conditions, their work, expectations**](#)
Greg Penny of PennDOT says roads are mostly clear but crews are working around the clock to clear trouble areas. Commuters need to know what to expect for the workweek following that major snow storm. Pennsylvania Department of Transportation spokesman Greg Penny answered... - [*York Daily*](#)
- 01-27-2016 [**Traffic Advisory: Interstate 80 lane closure in Montour County**](#)
MONTOURSVILLE – PennDOT is advising drivers in Montour County of a lane closure on Interstate 80 beginning Wednesday morning and running through Thursday afternoon. PennDOT says the closure will be in a westbound travel lane between milemarkers 216 and 218. The closure will be in place through Thursday afternoon so emergency... - [*Sunbury Daily Item*](#)
- 01-27-2016 [**Today's Editorial: Small price for added safety**](#)
Over the hundreds of highway miles that Sharon Budd traveled the night of July 10, 2014, there were very few locations where her life could have been changed the way it was. Tragically, a group of teenagers found one of those isolated spots when they stood on the Gray Hill Road overpass near New Columbia that night and... - [*Sunbury Daily Item*](#)
- 01-27-2016 [**Bridge project in Cambridge Township scheduled for August**](#)
CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS — A bridge on Route 6 in Cambridge Township is scheduled to be replaced in August, detouring traffic for an expected two weeks, until completion. A public meeting was held Tuesday to discuss plans, show maps and detours and address public concerns about the project.... - [*Meadville Tribune*](#)
- 01-27-2016 [**Lyft Agrees to Settle Class-Action Lawsuit With California Drivers**](#)
For more than two years, ride-hailing companies have fought with their drivers over the drivers' employment status. Now, one of those companies has found a way to bury the hatchet. Lyft, a popular start-up based in San Francisco, agreed late Tuesday to settle a class-action lawsuit brought in 2013 by Lyft drivers in... - [*New York Times*](#)
- 01-27-2016 [**Commuters face tough trips even as rail lines reopen and plows clear roads**](#)
Authorities warned Washington area residents Wednesday that the morning commute — whether by subway, bus or car — was going to be long and tough as more offices and schools reopen after a snowstorm for the record books. D.C. Public schools were in session, but officials advised parents to use... - [*Washington Post*](#)
- 01-27-2016 [**Southland transit agencies report shrinking ridership as investments continue to grow**](#)
For almost a decade, transit ridership has declined across Southern California despite enormous and costly efforts by top transportation officials to entice people out of their cars and onto buses and trains. The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the region's... - [*Los Angeles Times*](#)
- 01-27-2016 [**Marylanders on unplowed streets go from frustrated to angry**](#)
It's not that Grace Mudrick hasn't seen any plows since the snow stopped falling Saturday night. She's seen them, repeatedly scraping Northern Parkway clean. But her street, Woodcrest Avenue, just blocks to the north of that Baltimore thoroughfare, remains snowed-in and unplowed.... - [*Baltimore Sun*](#)

- 01-27-2016 [**Paying taxes should equate to plowing**](#)
To the Editor: I am writing this letter because I have finally reached a breaking point that took 40 years to get to, but here I am. I live in Porter Township, Schuylkill County. My house is located 150 feet from the Tower City borough line. Forty years ago, we paid to have North... - [*Pottsville Republican and Evening Herald*](#)
- 01-27-2016 [**PennDOT awards \\$97.4M for Route 422 improvements**](#)
PennDOT announced Tuesday that it has awarded a \$97.4 million contract to improve bridges over the Schuylkill River. The contract will be used to improve Route 422 by building new, wider bridges over the Schuylkill River and upgrading the highway between the... - [*Pottstown Mercury*](#)
- 01-27-2016 [**Editorial: First things first: Plow the streets!**](#)
It is the first rule of politics. Make sure you collect people's garbage and pick up their trash. And whatever you do, for God's sake when it snow make sure you plow the streets. It is a lesson being learned the hard way up and down the East Coast this week. Two feet or more of snow will do that to you.... - [*Primos Delaware County Daily and Sunday Times*](#)
- 01-27-2016 [**No fly, no gun a flawed measure**](#)
Your editorial of Jan. 15 calling for a "common-sense gun measure" as a way to "solve" gun violence by prohibiting people on the government No-Fly List from purchasing firearms on the surface sounds noble but is severely flawed. Prohibiting a person from their privilege of flying... - [*Levittown Bucks County Courier Times*](#)
- 01-27-2016 [**Residents group seeking help from Lower Makefield in fight over Trenton-Mercer Airport flights**](#)
A Lower Makefield-based citizens group is seeking financial help again in its legal battle with the Federal Aviation Administration, Frontier Airlines and the Mercer County-owned Trenton-Mercer Airport over Frontier flights to and from the airport. Members of Bucks Residents for Responsible Airport Management want the... - [*Levittown Bucks County Courier Times*](#)
- 01-27-2016 [**Newtown Rail Trail proposed for old rail line**](#)
Bicyclists and hikers could travel safely from Newtown to Philadelphia if a plan to turn an old, weed-covered rail line into the Newtown Rail Trail is developed. The plan, supported by the Bucks County Commissioners and outdoor enthusiasts, will be presented at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Free Library of... - [*Levittown Bucks County Courier Times*](#)
- 01-27-2016 [**Amtrak Engineer In Deadly Derailment May Have Been Distracted By Radio Chatter**](#)
PHILADELPHIA (CBS) – Eight months after the deadly Amtrak derailment in Philadelphia, there is a new theory about what might have caused the crash. Investigators think the engineer may have been distracted by radio chatter from other train operators when the train jumped the tracks in Frankford.... - [*KYW News Radio 1060*](#)
- 01-27-2016 [**Another Lawsuit Filed Against Amtrak Over Deadly Train Derailment**](#)
PHILADELPHIA (CBS) — A New Jersey man has filed a lawsuit against Amtrak over the deadly derailment in Philadelphia. The suit claims Joshua Pearlstein of Livingston, Essex County suffered injuries that "harm the quality of his life" when Train #188 jumped the tracks last May.... - [*KYW News Radio 1060*](#)
- 01-27-2016 [**Phila. Parking Authority To Help With City's Snow Plowing Efforts**](#)
PHILADELPHIA (CBS) — Philadelphia will get some help with that difficult side street plowing that's continuing after the weekend's massive snowfall. The Parking Authority is riding in with reinforcements. At its regular board meeting, the Parking Authority moved to buy six new... - [*KYW News Radio 1060*](#)

- 01-27-2016 [**Freezing rain causes icy roads, 200 cars to crash or get stuck in Lancaster County**](#)
More than 200 cars crashed or became disabled in Lancaster County Tuesday morning thanks to just two-hundredths of an inch of freezing rain. A weak warm front, a blip on weather radar screens, created a perfect storm of problems for rush-hour motorists eager to return to work after the... - [*Lancaster Intelligencer Journal*](#)
- 01-27-2016 [**Thank you to those who clear our roads and streets**](#)
The truest measure of a thankless job is one in which it is only noticed when the work isn't done correctly. While many of us spent more hours than we'd care to think about shoveling and clearing snow this past weekend after more than a foot (in many places much more) of the white stuff buried the Juniata Valley, there was another... - [*Lewistown Sentinel*](#)
- 01-27-2016 [**Bedford County thanks turnpike helpers**](#)
County residents, responders gave aid to travelers stranded by storm. BEDFORD - Days after hundreds of vehicles sat stranded on the snowed-over Pennsylvania Turnpike in Bedford County, the officials there passed a resolution Tuesday thanking the county's residents for their work securing,... - [*Altoona Mirror*](#)
- 01-27-2016 [**Lower Trail underpass project to receive funding from Blair County**](#)
HOLLIDAYSBURG - Blair County has committed to offering as much as \$100,000 toward a Route 22 underpass and trail linking the Lower Trail with Canoe Creek State Park. - [*Altoona Mirror*](#)
- 01-27-2016 [**IntelliConference slated on former Knox-Kane rail corridor**](#)
MOUNT JEWETT — While the sale of the 73.8-mile former Knox-Kane rail corridor to Headwaters Charitable Trust of DuBois may not have been completed just yet, the MJ2KB T(rails) Club is still hopeful they can purchase the 3.9-mile section of the corridor which lies between Mount... - [*Bradford Era*](#)
- 01-27-2016 [**Stranded drivers shouldn't blame Turnpike officials**](#)
It would be easy enough to condemn the Pennsylvania Turnpike after the weekend's snow-induced shutdown that left hundreds of motorists stranded. Two westbound semi trucks got stuck Friday night while ascending to the Allegheny tunnels in Somerset County. Before Turnpike officials could... - [*Butler Eagle*](#)
- 01-27-2016 [**Bernheisel Bridge reopened ahead of estimated deadline**](#)
Bernheisel Bridge in Middlesex Township has reopened after months of repairs. Cumberland County Director of Planning Kirk Stoner confirmed Tuesday that the bridge's repairs, overseen by Lobar Site Development of Dillsburg, had been completed ahead of their originally estimated Feb. 12 deadline.... - [*Carlisle Sentinel*](#)
- 01-27-2016 [**Lyft to grow ride-hailing services in Pennsylvania, but not in the midstate: spokeswomen**](#)
Ride-hailing service Lyft plans to focus on growing its presence in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia this year while staying out of areas like Harrisburg, York and Lancaster, according to company spokeswomen. Lyft has been in a battle with competitor Uber for ride-hailing supremacy... - [*Harrisburg Patriot-News*](#)
- 01-27-2016 [**TRAFFIC: Turnpike to close Thursday from Breezewood to New Stanton**](#)
An 86-mile stretch of the Pennsylvania Turnpike will be closed Thursday to give workers more time to remove a tractor-trailer caught in the weekend snowstorm. The westbound lanes will close for approximately three hours starting about 9 a.m. Thursday from Breezewood to New Stanton. Traffic will be detoured... - [*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*](#)
- 01-27-2016 [**Mack's parent company to reorganize truck businesses**](#)
Mack Trucks' parent company is letting the iconic heavy-duty truck manufacturer stand on its

own wheels. The Volvo Group is planning to reorganize its truck operations into four separate units — Mack Trucks, Volvo Trucks, UD Trucks and Renault Trucks — giving each profit and loss responsibility for their... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)

01-27-2016

[**House Transportation**](#)

1/127/16, 9:30 a.m., Room 205 Ryan Office Building

By Jeff Cox

[v]<http://media2.pahousegop.com/Generator.asp?videoname=534070694.wmv> The committee met to consider five bills and one resolution. At the outset of the meeting, Chairman John Taylor (R-Philadelphia) announced the committee will be having a public hearing in Philadelphia on February 4 followed by a public hearing in Harrisburg on February 8 on the funding of the State Police through the use of the Motor License Fund and a public hearing in Harrisburg on February 10 in Harrisburg regarding the Pennsylvania Turnpike's response to the recent snow storm. He also expressed the committee's condolences to the family of Rep. Ed Gainey (D-Allegheny) upon the death of his sister this past weekend.

01-27-2016

[**Senate Floor**](#)

January 27, 2016, 11:00 a.m.

By Mike Howells The Senate convened at 11:25 p.m., and opened with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. A report from the Public Employees Retirement Commission was filed in the Library.

01-27-2016

[**Senate Transportation**](#)

1/27/16, 1:30 p.m., Hearing Room #1 North Office Building

By Jeff Cox The committee conducted a public hearing on clearing snow and ice from vehicles and legislation addressing the issue.

01-26-2016

[**BLOG: Local Responders in Somerset, Bedford Show What It Means to Be...**](#)

(Press Release)

01-26-2016

[**BLOG: New Plow Tracking Technology Put To The Test**](#)

(Press Release)

01-26-2016

[**CBF Board Elects Harry T. Lester as Chairman**](#)

(Press Release)

01-26-2016

[**BLOG: State Police Served and Protected During Winter's Worst**](#)

(Press Release)

01-26-2016

[**Wolf Administration Advises Motorists to Avoid Interstate 78 West of...**](#)

(Press Release)

01-26-2016

[**PPG announces executive appointments**](#)

(Press Release)

01-26-2016

[**L&I Awarded \\$2 Million for Reemployment Assistance Program**](#)

(Press Release)

01-26-2016

[**FreightCar America, Inc. Appoints Matthew S. Kohnke as Chief Financial Officer**](#)

(Press Release)

01-26-2016

[**John Paul, Allegheny Health Network President and CEO Assumes New Role as...**](#)

(Press Release)

- 01-26-2016 [PA Turnpike Launches its After-Action Review of Weekend Incident Today](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-26-2016 [BLOG: Thank You PA National Guard, For Keeping Us Safe During The Storm](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-26-2016 [DEP: Approximately 4,200 Gallon Heating Oil Tank Release to Land, Schuylkill...](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-26-2016 [State House to hold hearings on turnpike's handling of snowstorm](#)
As the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission began its internal review of what happened to strand as many as 500 vehicles between Bedford and Somerset during the weekend snowstorm, the head of the state House Transportation Committee vowed to hold public hearings on the incident... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 01-26-2016 [TRAFFIC: Today's implosion of old Hulton Bridge to close nearby roads](#)
Traffic stoppages will begin at 7 this morning around the new and old Hulton Bridges for the implosion of the older span. A 1,000-foot safety zone will be created around the old bridge beginning at that time. The implosion over the Allegheny River will occur around 10 a.m.... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 01-26-2016 [Turnpike debacle: The blizzard was awful; state response was worse](#)
Pennsylvania Turnpike officials and Gov. Tom Wolf were lucky. Hundreds of people whose vehicles were stuck on the toll road all weekend long were not. The turnpike commission and the governor's administration, which is responsible for providing assistance in widespread emergencies, were lucky... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 01-26-2016 [Senate, House members seek hearings on stranded turnpike motorists](#)
HARRISBURG — As hard-hit communities continued to shovel out from under the weekend's heavy snow, lawmakers said Monday that the Senate and House should hold hearings into how hundreds of motorists became stuck on the Pennsylvania Turnpike in blizzard-like conditions, some for 24 hours or... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 01-26-2016 [Crews prep for Hulton Bridge implosion](#)
While contractors labored to precisely drop the Hulton Bridge's 2,200 tons of steel into the Allegheny River Tuesday morning, work to remove the scrap steel is only beginning. The demolition of the span connecting Harmar to Oakmont is one of the final steps for completion of PennDOT's \$66 million bridge, which sits within... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 01-26-2016 [SEPTA police chief offers not what to do tips for transit police candidates](#)
When it comes to hiring transit police officers, good help, it seems, can be hard to find — just ask SEPTA Police Chief Thomas J. Nestel III. Or, better yet, ask the recent SEPTA transit officer candidate who sold drugs after completing his recruit entrance exam. Or the one who apparently... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 01-26-2016 [SEPTA's Mad Max Monster Blower, 1,000 weekend warriors beat the blizzard](#)
SEPTA General Manager Jeff Knueppel, who announced Monday that 75 percent of the blizzard-battered public-transit system was running again, said he was teased by a reporter earlier this winter after buying gigantic snow-fighting machines. The 28-year SEPTA veteran, who has battled the four biggest snowstorms in... - [Philadelphia Daily News](#)
- 01-26-2016 [Be patient, Kenney says, plows are coming](#)
Mayor Kenney is asking residents whose narrow city streets are still choked in snow to be patient - the plows, he says, are coming. "We're getting to your streets," the mayor said Monday afternoon. "We've got to take care of the big ones first to get everything rolling. . . . We... -

[Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

- 01-26-2016 [**Snow-filled streets still stymie efforts to get buses rolling**](#)
 Almost two days after the last snowflakes fell, about one-fifth of Philadelphia's 122 bus routes remained suspended. By Monday afternoon, 26 routes were still out of service, largely due to unplowed streets, SEPTA officials said. "These operate in neighborhood areas, and to be able to bring a 40-foot bus... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 01-26-2016 [**Report card: Grading the response to the historic snowstorm**](#)
 For it being a historic snowstorm, we did considerably well in responding to the 2 to 3 feet of snow that piled up around us. It could have been far worse. Think about it. Few people lost power. People followed common sense advice of hunkering down and keeping off the roads while PennDOT did its thing.... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 01-26-2016 [**Amtrak continues modified schedule; Harrisburg Keystone service restored**](#)
 Amtrak will continue running on a modified schedule throughout most of the mid-Atlantic region on Tuesday due to the blizzard that pummeled parts of Pennsylvania and neighboring states during the weekend. However, the Keystone Service between Harrisburg and New York, most Acela... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 01-26-2016 [**Turnpike reviews blizzard response after 500 vehicles stranded**](#)
 The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission has launched a review of its response to travelers who were stranded on the turnpike for 24 hours or more during the historic blizzard that pummeled swaths of Pennsylvania during the weekend. On Monday, the commission launched a two-phase "After-Action Review" of its... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 01-26-2016 [**Capital Area Transit to resume \(mostly\) full service**](#)
 Capital Area Transit has announced its resuming full service on Tuesday, with the exception of its Carlisle circulator. CAT on Monday morning canceled its fixed route bus service due to road conditions and safety concerns, according to an alert. With mostly full service resuming Tuesday, CAT said on its website that... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 01-26-2016 [**After snowfall, LVIA digs out travelers' vehicles parked in long-term lot**](#)
 HANOVER TOWNSHIP, Lehigh County — Before they left Tampa, Fla., on Monday for their flight back to the Lehigh Valley, Al and Lorinda Ravo stuffed a few plastic grocery bags into their suitcase. Al wore sneakers. Lorinda wore suede boots. It was the hardest footwear... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 01-26-2016 [**Pennsylvania Turnpike chairman:**](#)
 Turnpike chairman apologizes to stranded motorists Pennsylvania Turnpike Chairman Sean Logan has apologized after hundreds of travelers were left stranded on the highway for more than 24 hours during the weekend's massive blizzard. "Given the magnitude of this event, we unquestionably need to examine the... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 01-26-2016 [**Charges dropped against 1 cop in alleged DUI cover-up**](#)
 TRUCKSVILLE — Magisterial District Judge James Tupper dismissed charges against an area police officer in an alleged cover-up of a DUI crash and forwarded three misdemeanor counts against another emergency responder to county court. Michael Thomas, of the Larksville and Plymouth police departments, had been... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)
- 01-26-2016 [**Senior safety day at Hanover Area High School teaches the dangers of drunk and distracted driving**](#)
 HANOVER TWP. — According to Mothers Against Drunk Driving, vehicular accidents are the leading cause of death in teens, and about a quarter of those crashes involve underage drinking. Hanover Area High School took steps toward helping bring that statistic down Monday

with a "safety day" at the school. High school... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)

01-26-2016

[BARTA resumes bus service today, with some detours](#)

Reading, PA BARTA buses will resume operations Tuesday, though some routes may see detours because of "impassable" roads, the transit agency announced Monday. Some detoured routes include 10th/11th Street, Pennside and Brookline. TODAY'S SPONSOR: Route 18, the Schuylkill Avenue route, will not be in service, the agency... - [Reading Eagle](#)

01-26-2016

[Map shows where readers say the streets have no plows](#)

We asked readers on Facebook to let us know where the unplowed streets are in Berks. The response was fast, and we can't blame you for being a little furious. So we highlighted the streets that, as of this morning, still had not been plowed around Berks County. If you have a block that you think... - [Reading Eagle](#)

01-26-2016

[EMTA's future must be fully regional: Jay Breneman, Andre Horton and Fiore Leone](#)

ERIE, Pa. -- After nearly 50 years, the organizational charter for the Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority will soon expire. The two partner governments that signed the original charter are Erie County's largest municipality, the city of Erie, and the county itself.... - [Erie Times-News](#)

01-26-2016

[PennDOT: Road conditions, their work, expectations](#)

Greg Penny of PennDOT says roads are mostly clear but crews are working around the clock to clear trouble areas. Commuters need to know what to expect for the workweek following that major snow storm. Pennsylvania Department of Transportation spokesman Greg Penny answered... - [York Daily](#)

01-26-2016

[Gov. Wolf, Sec. Richards thank PennDOT](#)

Wolf calls PennDOT's response 'perfect,' and Richards said PennDOT will look to helping smaller communities soon. Gov. Tom Wolf and Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Secretary Leslie S. Richards made a stop Monday in the York area today to thank PennDOT crews for their response to the major storm over the weekend, a... - [York Daily](#)

01-26-2016

[Budd fence plan gains traction in Ohio; Pa. push continues](#)

Randy Budd's efforts to have Ohio install protective fences on more bridges will result in barriers on 108 additional new and renovated bridges in the state. Budd is pushing for the same change in Pennsylvania, where his wife, Sharon, was seriously injured when teens threw a large rock off an... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)

01-26-2016

[PennDOT crews to be rewarded for plowing efforts](#)

Crews worked 12-hour shifts for several days, some sleeping at the garage. Their work is not yet done but the PennDOT road crews who have been cleaning Lebanon County's thoroughfares can look forward to Friday when they will be treated to an appreciation luncheon.... - [Lebanon Daily News](#)

01-26-2016

[LETTER: PennDOT shares community, college's concern about North Main Street safety](#)

We at the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation appreciate the concern of the Meadville and Allegheny College communities following the tragic pedestrian fatality on North Main Street (Route 86). I assure you we share that concern. Safety is PennDOT's top priority.... - [Meadville Tribune](#)

01-26-2016

[The Wreck of Amtrak 188](#)

From 30th Street Station, the train glided northwest out of Philadelphia, tracing the arc of the freeway. Near the old Schuylkill River Bridge, it jogged right, gathering speed, bound for the New Jersey border. Had you been standing anywhere near the tracks, you would have heard Amtrak 188... - [New York Times](#)

- 01-26-2016 [**As commuters struggle back to work, storm's aftermath still chokes rail lines**](#)
The region's efforts to dig out from the historic winter wallop faced a setback Tuesday as snow and ice continued to cause problems on some Metro lines with the number of commuters expected to steadily rise. The transit system had planned to resume full service on all but the Silver... - [Washington Post](#)
- 01-26-2016 [**Safer highways**](#)
If you like to drink, don't drive in Somerset County. That's the message from the latest state police tally on drunk driving arrests. - [Somerset Daily](#)
- 01-26-2016 [**PennDOT's Rapid Bridge Replacement Project is underway in Venango County**](#)
PennDOT's Rapid Bridge Replacement Project is underway in Venango County, and two bridges are due for replacement under the project in 2017. One of those bridges is the bridge in Cooperstown that carries Route 427 over a tributary of Sugar Creek. The project contractor, Plenary Walsh Keystone Partners, has plans on... - [Oil City Derrick](#)
- 01-26-2016 [**'Gold Star Bridge' replacement project begins in February**](#)
SHENANDOAH — A public meeting was held Monday at Shenandoah Borough Hall to provide information and receive input and questions on the upcoming bridge replacement project on state Route 924 that will begin in February. Representatives of the Plenary Walsh Keystone Partners, which has... - [Pottsville Republican and Evening Herald](#)
- 01-26-2016 [**Pa. Turnpike Commission Launches Review Of Massive Backup During Winter Storm**](#)
HIGHSPIRE, Pa. (CBS) — The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission today announced that it has launched a two-phase review of its response to an incident that occurred during an epic blizzard over the weekend resulting in hundreds of travelers being stranded for 24 hours, including the Temple... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)
- 01-26-2016 [**Freezing rain causing icy roads, dozens of crashes this morning in Lancaster County**](#)
Freezing rain made the morning commute treacherous in Lancaster County, causing 95 wrecks before 9:30 a.m. The county was under a freezing rain advisory until 9 a.m. Many schools are still closed or on a delayed schedule after the weekend snowstorm that brought more than 26 inches to the county.... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 01-26-2016 [**Gov. Tom Wolf commends road crews in Lancaster County**](#)
Gov. Tom Wolf had a message Monday morning for Lancaster County snow plow drivers and PennDOT workers: "Thank you, unambiguously." "They work long hours and they really worked efficiently and effectively to get the state roads cleaned," Wolf said at the local... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 01-26-2016 [**PA Turnpike chairman apologizes for 'ordeal' that stranded hundreds during winter storm**](#)
Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission Chairman Sean Logan has issued an apology to the hundreds of people who were stranded on the Pennsylvania Turnpike this weekend. According to the commission, the problem began late Friday during the snow storm, "after several tractor trailers jackknifed while ascending the... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 01-26-2016 [**SEPTA installs body cameras on its police officers**](#)
As the national debate surges on whether state and local police should wear body cameras, SEPTA Transit has already put a plan in action. SEPTA police officers are now equipped with body cameras that will be turned on while responding to radio calls and during any interaction with people on patrol.... - [Daily Pennsylvanian](#)
- 01-26-2016 [**Number of flights, passengers down at airport**](#)
REYNOLDSVILLE — The Clearfield-Jefferson Counties Regional Airport Authority met Friday for reorganization and a regular monthly meeting. Board Chairman Rick Wise called the

reorganization meeting to order. A review of the January 2015 minutes resulted in a motion to accept the... - [DuBois Courier-Express](#)

- 01-26-2016 [Public can track state plows online this winter](#)
When it finally snows this winter, you might be able to see if a state plow truck is rumbling your way. Through the Automated Vehicle Location System pilot, the public can view the location of more than 500 PennDOT plow trucks and more than 200 contracted rental trucks through the 511PA website this winter, according... - [Hanover Evening Sun](#)
- 01-26-2016 [Midstate bus service resumes, with some changes, after blizzard](#)
Mass transit is growing closer to normal operations in the midstate in the wake of this weekend's blizzard. Capital Area Transit says it began operating full service on Tuesday, with the exception of the Carlisle Circulator and some route changes. Red Rose Transit in Lancaster County and RabbitTransit in York County are also... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 01-26-2016 [Hulton Bridge comes down](#)
With a rumble and a roar, the lavender bridge is no more. The 108-year-old Hulton Bridge was imploded into the Allegheny River this morning. The blast occurred at 9:49 a.m. and it took only a few seconds for the bridge to drop into the water. The blast came earlier than the 10 a.m. schedule because "when everything... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 01-26-2016 [86-mile stretch of Pa. Turnpike to close Wednesday to recover tractor-trailer](#)
Part of a section of the Pennsylvania Turnpike that was closed over the weekend due to a massive backup of hundreds of vehicles will be closing again for several hours to allow recovery of one of the tractor-trailers involved... - [AP](#)
- 01-26-2016 [Pace of snow removal picks up in Harrisburg; parking meters not being enforced](#)
Harrisburg on Tuesday harnessed even more help than it originally expected to plow neighborhoods and clean up after a record-breaking snowfall, said Mayor Eric Papenfuse. "We have exceeded even our wildest dreams from yesterday and we have people working currently all over the city," he said at a news briefing Tuesday.... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 01-26-2016 [House Appropriations](#)
01/26/16, 2:15 p.m., 140 Main Capitol
By Elly Henry The committee met to consider bills. Vice-Chairman Mark Mustio (R-Allegheny) prefaced the meeting to alert members that he would be acting on behalf of Chairman Bill Adolph (R-Delaware).
- 01-25-2016 [National Fuel Announces Executive Management Changes](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-25-2016 [Governor Wolf and Secretary Richards Thank PennDOT Crews Who Worked Winter...](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-25-2016 [Governor Wolf and Transportation, Emergency Management Provide Update on...](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-25-2016 [Wolf Administration Gives Update on Winter Storm, I-76 Situation](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-25-2016 [Hours of Service Waiver Extends Maximum Driving Time for Motor Carriers...](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-25-2016 [BLOG: Turnpike Response Kept People Safe Despite Historically Dire Conditions](#)

(Press Release)

- 01-25-2016 [**PA Turnpike Chairman Offers Apology to Travelers, Promises Thorough Review**](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-25-2016 [**Rig collision started Pennsylvania Turnpike jam that stranded hundreds in storm**](#)
The massive backup that left hundreds stranded on the Pennsylvania Turnpike over the weekend started when two tractor-trailers collided Friday night while traveling side by side in a snowy construction zone as they climbed a hill in Somerset County, the chief executive of the Pennsylvania Turnpike... - [*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*](#)
- 01-25-2016 [**Turnpike commission chief promotes Mon-Fay plan as boost for economy**](#)
Sean Logan, a former mayor of Monroeville and state senator for the eastern suburbs, has this vision for rejuvenating the Mon Valley: building the 14-mile extension of the Mon-Fayette Expressway from Jefferson Hills to Monroeville and extending the Martin Luther King Jr. East Busway from... - [*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*](#)
- 01-25-2016 [**Traffic moving normally after truck crash closes lanes on Pa. Turnpike**](#)
A tractor trailer overturned on the Pennsylvania Turnpike this evening, causing an eastbound and westbound lane to close between the Donegal and Somerset exits, state police said. Around 7:15 p.m., a westbound passenger vehicle rear-ended the tractor trailer, causing it to overturn, state police Corporal Brian Milore said.... - [*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*](#)
- 01-25-2016 [**Diana Nelson Jones' Walkabout: In winter, rock salt can be trees' worst enemy**](#)
Street trees, especially in Downtown, have a hard time growing up healthy. Vehicles emit pollution and the large ones clip their branches. Many trees are trying to grow without adequate tree pits, and the tree pits that exist are often compacted and plagued with litter.... - [*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*](#)
- 01-25-2016 [**Pa. Turnpike chairman apologizes for winter storm traffic snarl**](#)
As crews cleared and reopened the Pennsylvania Turnpike on Sunday afternoon, the Turnpike Commission's chairman offered an apology to the hundreds of people who were snagged for hours over the weekend when the enormous snowstorm brought traffic to a standstill.... - [*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*](#)
- 01-25-2016 [**Accident closes lanes on turnpike near Donegal**](#)
One person was hurt Sunday when a tractor-trailer overturned on the Pennsylvania Turnpike near the Donegal exit, state police said. The tractor-trailer tipped over when it was rear-ended by a car about 7:10 p.m. Three vehicles crashed into debris that spilled onto the turnpike, state... - [*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*](#)
- 01-25-2016 [**Bus stop upgrades on Smithfield Street part of bigger transformation**](#)
Overhead shelter, lean rails and extra space to stand are little changes making a big difference at Downtown Pittsburgh's busiest bus stop. The Smithfield Street bus stop at the corner of Sixth Avenue is the test site for Envision Downtown's transit system upgrades, designed to make... - [*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*](#)
- 01-25-2016 [**Heyl: Possible Kennywood expansion selling point for pricey expressway plan**](#)
Let's get this out of the way: Extending the little-used Mon/Fayette Expressway would be a colossal waste of money. But if the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission proceeds with this \$1.75 billion boondoggle, it has a powerful public relations weapon at its disposal to quiet opposition to the project.... - [*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*](#)
- 01-25-2016 [**Self-driving vehicles closer to getting green light as feds ease stance**](#)
Over the river and through the woods, the car knows the way. At least that's the growing

expectation of federal transportation officials for Thanksgivings of the future. As millions of Americans hit the road this holiday week, government regulators in Washington are rethinking their position on self-driving cars... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

01-25-2016

[Snow-choked side streets anger residents](#)

Some small side streets in South Philadelphia still looked Sunday as if they could have been scenes from Alaska or the Arctic. Residents complained that the city had cleared bigger streets like Broad, Chestnut and Spring Garden - but that smaller streets had been untouched.... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

01-25-2016

[Turnpike officials to review snowstorm bottleneck](#)

Gov. Wolf and other state officials praised the work of road crews and emergency responders Sunday for the absence of fatalities or serious injuries on Pennsylvania's highways during the weekend snowstorm. But they left unanswered the many questions remaining after several... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

01-25-2016

[Major East Coast airports slowly resume service](#)

Airports in New York City, Philadelphia and Baltimore were resuming very limited service Sunday, a day after a punishing blizzard dumped two feet or more of snow and brought transportation to a standstill along the East Coast... - [AP](#)

01-25-2016

[Storm-weary Temple gymnasts back on campus](#)

Cheers and laughter erupted Sunday night as members of the Temple women's gymnastics team climbed down the steps of their team bus after spending more than 24 hours stranded in blizzardlike conditions along the Pennsylvania Turnpike east of Pittsburgh. "I've never felt so happy to be back at Temple," said Briana Odom, a junior... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

01-25-2016

[State government offices closed, other Monday closures continue as midstate digs out from historic snowstorm](#)

Closures are continuing in Dauphin County as locals continue to dig out from a historic weekend storm that slammed the region with feet of snow. More than 30 inches of snow fell on the midstate, which left many struggling to clear snow from their facilities. As a result, schools,... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

01-25-2016

[Travel bans, snow emergencies lifted across midstate, few remain](#)

A number of travel bans have been lifted after this weekend's historic snowstorm closed down of roads, cities and highways. Plow trucks have been running constantly trying to free up roads that have been covered in more than 30 inches of snow. Many travel bans -- which were... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

01-25-2016

[Harrisburg residents told to move snow-buried cars from unplowed street, but how?](#)

Residents of Penn Street in Harrisburg awoke Sunday morning to a message from city officials to move their vehicles if they wanted their street plowed. But frustrated residents wondered: How could they move vehicles that were buried under more than two feet of snow? And how could they escape an... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

01-25-2016

[East Coast airports, Amtrak resume limited service after blizzard](#)

Airports in New York City, Philadelphia and Baltimore were resuming very limited service Sunday, a day after a punishing blizzard dumped two feet or more of snow and brought transportation to a standstill along the East Coast... - [AP](#)

01-25-2016

[Stranded drivers, vehicles removed from Pa. Turnpike; chairman offers apology](#)

Officials say travelers and vehicles have been removed from a section of the Pennsylvania Turnpike in Somerset and Bedford counties where some drivers had been stranded since late Friday. The incident was caused when several tractor-trailers blocked the roadway... -

[Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

- 01-25-2016 [Can Pennsylvania prevent drivers from being stranded on the Pa. Turnpike?](#)
 Hundreds of motorists that were trapped on the Pennsylvania Turnpike have been freed after a statewide rescue effort. Which leaves many wondering: Can the state prevent this from ever happening again? More than 500 vehicles -- including those carrying college athletes and... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 01-25-2016 [Interstates and major expressways in good conditions: PennDOT](#)
 As of 10 p.m. Sunday, PennDOT officials said interstates and major expressways in south Central Pennsylvania are in good condition following the weekend's record-breaking snow. Most of the pavement is dry and clear of snow, officials said in a news release, but crews are working around the clock to clear remaining roads in... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 01-25-2016 [Harvey Taylor Bridge into Harrisburg temporarily closed for snow removal](#)
 A portion of the Harvey Taylor Bridge into Harrisburg is closed because of snow removal. The bridge's eastbound lanes were closed Monday morning as crews worked to remove snow, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. PennDOT closed the eastbound lanes into the city around 3 a.m. and the... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 01-25-2016 [Road crews focus on Monday commute as snow cleanup goes 'round the clock](#)
 While residents shoveled sidewalks and driveways Sunday, road crews were doing the heavy lifting in the Lehigh Valley and beyond, trying to get streets ready for Monday's commute. PennDOT, with a fleet of more than 2,000 plows and 4,000 operators, focused Sunday on interstates and expressways before moving to secondary roads,... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 01-25-2016 [Man, believed to have been snowed in by plow, dies in car during snowstorm in Berks County](#)
 MUHLENBERG TOWNSHIP, Berks County — Authorities say a man in Berks County apparently trapped in his running car by a snowplow deluge died of carbon monoxide poisoning during the snowstorm... - [AP](#)
- 01-25-2016 [Forks Township addresses long waits at Sullivan Trail-Uhler Road light](#)
 FORKS TOWNSHIP — Drivers who have to wait a long time to turn left from Sullivan Trail onto Uhler Road are in for some good news: The situation is going to get better soon. At Thursday night's meeting of the Forks Township supervisors, engineer Scott Muller said the township has taken steps to address the problem that... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 01-25-2016 [Storm elsewhere affects local airport travel](#)
 They may not have been able to see the snow in front of them, but local airline travelers likely huffed at the storm that buried much of the East Coast. About 34 flights — or 50 percent of the departures and arrivals at the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport — were canceled between... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 01-25-2016 [Storm elsewhere affects local airport travel](#)
 They may not have been able to see the snow in front of them, but local airline travelers likely huffed at the storm that buried much of the East Coast. About 34 flights — or 50 percent of the departures and arrivals at the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport — were canceled between... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)
- 01-25-2016 [Pa. Turnpike chairman apologizes for winter storm traffic snarl](#)
 As crews cleared and reopened the Pennsylvania Turnpike on Sunday afternoon, the Turnpike Commission's chairman offered an apology to the hundreds of people who were snagged for hours over the weekend when the enormous snowstorm brought traffic to a standstill.... -

[Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

- 01-25-2016 [Despite Decades of Stealth, Sticking Points Bedevil F-35 Jet](#)
One of the earliest stealth weapons on record was a stone used by the young Israelite David to kill the Philistine giant Goliath. In the biblical account, David shunned the conventional armaments of his time: sword, helmet, armor. Instead, he went forth with a slingshot and a few stones,... - [New York Times](#)
- 01-25-2016 [Drone Lobbying Heats Up on Capitol Hill](#)
WASHINGTON — The last time Congress weighed in on rules for nonmilitary drones, in 2012, the flying machines were hardly a hit with consumers. And companies said little about using them for commercial purposes. Now Congress is set to make a stand again. But this time, hundreds of... - [New York Times](#)
- 01-25-2016 [Traffic hypocrisy in Richmond](#)
FOR FOUR DAYS last fall, along one of the most heavily trafficked corridors in the mid-Atlantic, Virginia state police did something novel: They enforced the law. They cracked down on Northern Virginia scofflaws driving at rush hour without passengers inside the Beltway on I-66, Northern Virginia's most... - [Washington Post](#)
- 01-25-2016 [After 500+ were stranded on Pa. Turnpike in snow, Gov. Wolf offers apology](#)
HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Gov. Tom Wolf and Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission chairman are apologizing that hundreds of motorists were stranded during the weekend's massive snow storm... - [AP](#)
- 01-24-2016 [Catholic students celebrate Mass on snow altar while stranded on PA Turnpike](#)
Stranded on buses overnight by a monster snowstorm that has shut down parts of the Pennsylvania Turnpike, hundreds of Catholic high school students from Nebraska and elsewhere nevertheless seemed to have things relatively in hand this afternoon. Returning from Washington D.C., where they took part Friday in the annual... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 01-24-2016 [T repairs continue to concern Beechview businesses](#)
Port Authority officials said Friday they will continue to work with individual businesses that have concerns about the reconstruction of the Red Line tracks of the T system through Beechview but they don't plan to have any more public meetings before Feb. 18.... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 01-24-2016 [Storm brings turnpike traffic to standstill for nearly full day](#)
The northern fringes of a mammoth winter storm left southwestern Pennsylvanians Saturday with vastly differing landscapes of snow piled 3 to 30 inches deep, but most residents shared a common reason for relief: At least they got home. An untold number of others were not so lucky, caught overnight Friday and... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 01-24-2016 [Blizzard in the East: 18 deaths blamed on storm as deep snow cripples major cities](#)
A blizzard with hurricane-force winds brought much of the East Coast to a standstill Saturday, dumping as much as 3 feet of snow, stranding tens of thousands of travelers and shutting down the nation's capital and its largest city... - [AP](#)
- 01-24-2016 [Snowbound on PA turnpike, Duquesne men's basketball team made the best of chilly situation](#)
At some point early Saturday morning, as his team's bus remained in the same spot it had been for the past several hours, Duquesne University forward L.G. Gill fell asleep. When he woke up a few hours later, it seemed like they hadn't moved. He wasn't groggy, nor was he caught in a bad dream. He, his teammates,... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 01-24-2016 [The new transit fares aren't fair at all](#)

So let me get this straight: Under the Port Authority's new one-fare-for-all plan, poor people in the city will pay around 42 cents per mile for transit in order to subsidize rich people in the suburbs who will be paying around half that? That's "convenience"?... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

01-24-2016

[Time's almost up for old Hulton Bridge; implosion set for Jan. 26](#)

Toppling the aging Hulton Bridge on Tuesday will take more than 500 explosive charges to shear the truss structure off its piers, blowing 2,200 tons of steel into pieces into the Allegheny River. The implosion of the bridge, which connects Harmar and Oakmont, is... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

01-24-2016

[Duquesne coach: No one to blame for team being stranded on turnpike](#)

There's no reason to second-guess the decisions that stranded the Duquesne men's basketball team on the Pennsylvania Turnpike for almost 24 hours, coach Jim Ferry said Saturday night. The team returned to campus shortly before 11 p.m., almost 30 1/2 hours after leaving Fairfax, Va., following a game against George Mason and being... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

01-24-2016

[Winter storm strands hundreds of motorists on Pa. Turnpike](#)

Winter Storm Jonas barreled through Western Pennsylvania this weekend, stranding hundreds of turnpike motorists for long hours without food, drink or bathroom access as they waited for state police and National Guard relief. "I've been driving a truck since 1998 and I have never been stuck for... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

01-24-2016

[Westmoreland Transit Authority to add accessible vehicles](#)

Wait times for physically challenged riders who use Westmoreland Transit's shared-ride program may be reduced when 11 wheelchair-accessible vehicles are added to the authority's fleet, according to its executive director. Westmoreland Transit Authority authorized using a \$672,000 PennDOT grant to... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

01-24-2016

[Stranded Pa. Turnpike travelers turn to social media](#)

With plenty of time on their hands, travelers stranded on the Pennsylvania Turnpike took to social media to show their situation and kill some time. "We are safe and we are healthy and that is the important part," said Father Ken Geraci of the Fathers of Mercy, which helped chaperone the... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

01-24-2016

[South Philly snow sage: Enough already!](#)

Bernadette Faragalli is the Snow Sage straight out of straight-talking South Philly. Do you think this blizzard is Armageddon? Are you one of those people who is buying the fearmongering that life ends as soon as sprinkly rain lands on your car like a pile of fluffy, puffy snowflakes?... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

01-24-2016

[SEPTA expects to resume 10 a.m., or later](#)

With snowfalls heavier than expected, most of SEPTA's public transportation services won't begin to come back online until 10 a.m. Sunday, at the earliest. "There are a number of challenges resulting from the storm," Jeff Knueppel, SEPTA's general manager, said in a statement Saturday night.... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

01-24-2016

[Temple gymnasts: 'Tears of joy' leaving snowy Pa. Turnpike](#)

Buses carrying the Temple University women's gymnastics team and the Duquesne University men's basketball team were among more than 500 vehicles stranded Saturday for more than 24 hours in a blizzard and deep snows along a 40-mile stretch of the Pennsylvania Turnpike.... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

01-24-2016

[Storm Jonas was one for the record books](#)

A historic winter storm, packing hurricane-force gusts, inciting record tides at the Shore, creating blizzard-like conditions and impacting 20 percent of the nation's population, heaped up to 28

inches of snow - and a colossal cleanup operation - upon the Philadelphia region.... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

- 01-24-2016 [Scranton looks for help to downsize parking garages](#)
Scranton is stuck in a tight parking spot. The city's parking garages need millions of dollars in repairs, but the city doesn't have the money and borrowing more would send already high parking rates through the roof. So, the city seeks a \$4 million state grant to help pay for a \$7.55 million... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 01-24-2016 [Scranton area largely unscathed in snowstorm](#)
Would-be sledders approached the hills at McDade Park in Scranton Saturday only to find grass poking through the relatively slight amount of snow left in the city by a storm that originally promised much more. Snow totals varied throughout Pennsylvania and the Northeast region... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 01-24-2016 [Stranded in the Snow, Travelers Camp in Cars and Make Do](#)
Sabrina Swidergal was among hundreds of Catholic high school and college students returning from an anti-abortion rally in Washington who started their weekend stranded on the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Hundreds of miles away in Kentucky, Jeff Greenberg and two others in an... - [New York Times](#)
- 01-24-2016 [Major Cities Grind to a Halt and Face Days of Digging Out Snow](#)
Making up for a remarkably mild winter, the first major snowstorm of the season charged up the East Coast on Saturday, a blizzard propelled by tropical-storm-force winds that brought much of the Northeast to a standstill and left more than two feet of snow in New York City, where... - [New York Times](#)
- 01-24-2016 [How driverless cars could kill the speeding ticket — and rob your city](#)
One of the big benefits of driverless cars is that they aim to promote safety on the roads while reducing congestion at the same time. If cars are largely run by computers, talking to each other, they can travel closer together in a more coordinated fashion without fear of causing a... - [Washington Post](#)
- 01-24-2016 [Interstates 70 and 270 in Maryland reopened after overnight closure](#)
Maryland authorities reopened two major highways — Interstate 70 and Interstate 270 — after the roads were shut down overnight Saturday, as the deepest snowstorm in Baltimore's history trailed out of the region. The I-70 closure stretches from the Baltimore Beltway, or I-695, to I-81 in... - [Baltimore Sun](#)
- 01-24-2016 [Baltimore's biggest snow ever will take days to clean up](#)
It was more snow than Baltimore saw in the famed "Knickerbocker" storm of 1922. More than the blizzards of '83, and '96, and '03. It even surpassed the back-to-back "Snowmageddon" storms of 2010 – individually, not combined. The preliminary measurement of 29.2 inches of snow at Baltimore/Washington... - [Baltimore Sun](#)
- 01-24-2016 [Bullet train's first segment, reserved for Southland, could open in Bay Area instead](#)
A valuable perk handed to Southern California from the bullet train project — a 2012 decision to build the first operating segment from Burbank north into the Central Valley — is being reconsidered by state officials. The state rail authority is studying an alternative to build the first... - [Los Angeles Times](#)
- 01-24-2016 [Great news](#)
There was some news coming out of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission and for once it didn't involve toll increases. In fact, this news was absolutely great as the commission announced that it had given the green light to nine consulting firms to restart the study and... -

[Uniontown Herald-Standard](#)

- 01-24-2016 [End of Winter Storm Jonas brings record snowfall, excessive cleanup](#)
The wrath of Winter Storm Jonas may have finally concluded, but effects of the crippling snowfall will be felt for several days as cleanup efforts continue. According to unofficial snowfall reports at the National Weather Service in Pittsburgh, Mill Run reported the most accumulation with 30 inches snow. As... - [Uniontown Herald-Standard](#)

- 01-24-2016 [How a crazy winter storm evolved, crushed the Lehigh Valley](#)
Bobby Martrich has been talking for two weeks about Saturday's record-setting winter storm. Martrich and his team at Allentown-based Eastern PA Weather Authority rode the weather forecast models for days. They hit extremes to the high end of accumulation and the possibility of little or no accumulation as the... - [Easton Express-Times](#)

- 01-24-2016 [Pa. National Guard summoned to snowed-in Turnpike](#)
Snowbound college athletes and teenage parishioners spent the night stranded on the Pennsylvania Turnpike — munching on snacks or watching movies to pass the time as they waited to be dug out from massive backups that stretched for miles brought on by a powerful winter storm... - [AP](#)

- 01-24-2016 [Weekend winter storm disrupts Lehigh Valley transportation](#)
If you're planning on going anywhere Saturday, you may want to rethink that. Restrictions are in place on area highways, and some transportation services have shut down for the day. The Pennsylvania Turnpike has reduced speeds to 45 mph on certain stretches, including the Northeast Extension. The speed has also been reduced on Route... - [Easton Express-Times](#)

- 01-24-2016 [Buses from Erie area move after hours stranded on turnpike](#)
Three busloads of Erie-area people that participated in the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., on Friday were snowbound for hours on the Pennsylvania Turnpike on their way home. The buses, with two more buses of marchers from Crawford and Mercer counties and seven buses of students and staff from Franciscan University... - [Erie Times-News](#)

- 01-24-2016 [EMTA's future must be fully regional: Jay Breneman, Andre Horton and Fiore Leone](#)
After nearly 50 years, the organizational charter for the Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority will soon expire. - [Erie Times-News](#)

- 01-24-2016 [Despite blizzard conditions, some local businesses open their doors](#)
A few Berks businesses didn't let the snowstorm keep them from opening. Most major retailers and supermarkets were closed due to the weather. With public transportation at a standstill and taxi companies closed, residents who wanted to pop out for a bite to eat had to find a place... - [Reading Eagle](#)

- 01-24-2016 [Monster storm buries Berks](#)
The much-anticipated winter storm Saturday lived up to its hype and then some, paralyzing Berks County and the rest of the Tri-County region and dropping 2 feet or more of snow in most spots. But the toll was also grim: One man died in his idling car, trapped by snow... - [Reading Eagle](#)

- 01-24-2016 [Airport board to focus on terminal](#)
The Reading Regional Airport Authority board has agreed to focus on how best to re-evaluate, restructure and renovate the airport passenger terminal. Terry P. Sroka, airport manager, said the terminal originally was constructed in 1961 but substantially renovated and expanded in 2000 with a... - [Reading Eagle](#)

- 01-24-2016 [No-fly list gun purchase ban a mistake](#)

Legislation proposed both at the state and federal levels would deny those on the terrorist no-fly list from purchasing a gun. At first blush, it might sound like common sense that if you are too dangerous to board an airplane, you must be too dangerous to own a firearm. But deeper analysis... - [Washington Observer-Reporter](#)

01-24-2016

[LCTA implements snow route schedule](#)

The Luzerne County Transportation Authority has implemented its snow route schedules, effective immediately. Snow Routes are utilized when weather conditions are significant enough to pose a danger to the passengers, drivers and the public. These routes will stay in effect until further notice. Please continue to... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)

01-24-2016

[Largest snowfall in recorded history for some parts of Central PA](#)

Snow reports continue to pour in with many locations seeing between 20-30 inches of snow. The highest totals are along and south of the I-81 corridor. Highest totals so far peak around 31 inches for areas like Newville, Boiling Springs and East Fayetteville. Additional snowfall should only be a dusting to maybe an... - [Carlisle Sentinel](#)

01-24-2016

[Cumberland County residents urged to remain cautious as Jonas subsides](#)

The brunt of Winter Storm Jonas and its record-setting snowfall eased off on the Midstate Saturday night, its after-effects have only just begun. Cumberland County is still urging residents to practice caution when leaving their homes to shovel, plow or clean off their cars during the next... - [Carlisle Sentinel](#)

01-24-2016

[PennDOT restores speed limits on I-80, parts of U.S. Route 322](#)

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation announced at about 9:30 p.m. Saturday that the speed limit on Interstate 80 in Clinton, Centre and Clearfield counties has been restored to 70 mph. The speed limit on I-80 and U.S. Route 322 had been reduced to 45 mph on... - [State College Centre Daily Times](#)

01-24-2016

[Nearly 7,000 weekend flights canceled, and more on the way](#)

Airlines canceled nearly 7,000 weekend flights and started to cut Monday service as the ripple effects of driving snow and ice that brought many East Coast airports to a standstill drifted into the next work week.. - [AP](#)

01-24-2016

[Stranded motorists dug out of snow on Pennsylvania Turnpike](#)

Snowbound college athletes and teenage parishioners spent a night stranded in a miles-long backup on the Pennsylvania Turnpike with hundreds of other motorists, munching on snacks and watching movies to pass the time, before National Guard members and heavy construction equipment began digging... - [AP](#)

01-24-2016

[PennDOT lifts truck restrictions, I-81 ramp closed: highway roundup](#)

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has lifted the temporary restrictions placed on trucks traveling south central Pennsylvania's major highways. As the cleanup from the weekend's record-breaking storm continues, the ban on double trailers, empty trailers and tow-behind trailers in the region... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

01-24-2016

[When will things get back to normal? Travel bans remain as cleanup continues](#)

When will things get back to normal? The snow is over and the sun is out, but there's still plenty of work to be done on Sunday in the wake of the weekend's record-breaking storm, unofficially named Winter Storm Jonas by The Weather Channel. PennDOT is reporting crews are clearing the area's Interstates and major highways, but... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

01-24-2016

[PennDOT asks residents to refrain from shoveling snow onto roads](#)

As road crews continue clearing the area's highways, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation officials are asking residents to help plowing operations by not throwing snow

onto the road. Drifting snow from winds is already a problem, PennDOT spokesman Greg Penny... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

- 01-24-2016 [Most motorists are moving on Pa. Turnpike, Gov. Tom Wolf says](#)
Traffic is moving on the Pennsylvania Turnpike, and Gov. Tom Wolf released a statement on the backlog that clogged 7 miles of the road Friday through Saturday. "My first priority is the safety of all Pennsylvanians and we are currently using all resources available to assist any motorists that remain on I-76," ... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 01-24-2016 [Papenfuse enacts travel ban in Harrisburg](#)
Harrisburg Mayor Eric Papenfuse has banned all non-emergency vehicles from traveling city streets until further notice to help public works crews and emergency responders clear roads and get to calls unimpeded. Papenfuse declared a disaster emergency for Harrisburg early Saturday,... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 01-24-2016 [What does the state meteorologist do? Not just weather forecasting, he says](#)
During big weather events such as this weekend's forecasted snowstorm, state meteorologist Jeff Jumper said forecasting the weather for the entire state of Pennsylvania and sharing that information with emergency managers is about all he does. But Jumper, a former Fox43 meteorologist, said there's more to his job than... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 01-24-2016 [Storm smashes Lehigh Valley snowfall record](#)
All over the Lehigh Valley, people went to sleep Friday night anticipating the season's first snowstorm, which promised to be a doozy. While they slept, the storm shifted course slightly as it made its way up the East Coast. On Saturday, Valley residents woke up in the storm's... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 01-24-2016 [Great timing: Gentle sunshine follows single-day record snow](#)
Millions of Americans began digging out Sunday from a mammoth blizzard that set a new single-day snowfall record in Washington and New York City... - [AP](#)
- 01-22-2016 [Rep. David Parker - Weekly Roundup for January 22, 2016](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-22-2016 [PA Turnpike Will Reduce Speed Limits on Some Sections Tonight Due to Weather](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-22-2016 [Rep. Reed: House Action for the Week of January 25, 2016](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-22-2016 [Mountain Valley Pipeline Secures New Shipper Commitment with Con Edison](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-22-2016 [APSCUF: Students, faculty to advocate for fair funding for State System...](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-22-2016 [Senate Transportation Committee Hearing Agenda for Tuesday, February 2, 2016](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-22-2016 [Senate Transportation Committee Hearing Agenda for Wednesday, January 27, 2016](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-22-2016 [DRPA and PATCO Prepare for Weekend Winter Weather](#)

(Press Release)

- 01-22-2016 [**PHIA: 2016 Road & Bridge Safety Award Program Now Open to PA Boroughs**](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-22-2016 [**Governor Wolf Announces New Jobs, State Investments in Johnstown, Cambria County**](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-22-2016 [**Rep. Payne's Capitol Report for January 22, 2016**](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-22-2016 [**Will Brake For Batteries: SEPTA, Constellation, and Viridity Energy Announce...**](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-22-2016 [**Exelon Generation Applauds NYPSC Vote on Clean Energy**](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-22-2016 [**DLI: PA Unemployment Rate Declines to 4.8% in December; Jobs Reach Record High**](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-22-2016 [**Rep. Brett Miller - Weekly Roundup for January 22, 2016**](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-22-2016 [**Hoverboards raising safety concerns nationwide**](#)
Hoverboards went from being virtually unknown in the United States a year ago to the hottest gadget around this past Christmas. Estimates are that manufacturers, most of them in China, have sold millions of the two-wheel, battery-operated vehicles in the past year in the U.S.... - [*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*](#)
- 01-22-2016 [**Emergency snow kits urged for homeowners, motorists**](#)
Richard D. Flinn Jr., director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, is urging families to be prepared to survive for up to three days at home without outside assistance. A home emergency kit should contain: ? non-perishable food ? bottled water (one gallon per person per day. A family of 4 needs a... - [*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*](#)
- 01-22-2016 [**Base instinct: The 911th deserves to maintain new aircraft**](#)
If the 911th Airlift Wing, based at Pittsburgh International Airport, were a cat, people would say it has nine lives. It seems that way, given the Air Force facility's knack for surviving threats of closure. Although there's no new proposal in 2016 to shut the base, its defenders... - [*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*](#)
- 01-22-2016 [**The commuter survey missed the point**](#)
Diana Nelson Jones' Jan. 16 article "Most Commuters Travel Alone by Car, According to Survey" helped explain the lame approach to mass transit that has long characterized this county. The survey, initiated via Mayor Peduto, bemoans the fact that nearly half of commuters are alone in... - [*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*](#)
- 01-22-2016 [**Snow-filled weekend is on the horizon throughout Western Pa.**](#)
Let it snow. Emergency responders, PennDOT officials and local utility company spokesmen say they are prepared for the worst this weekend. If a Snowmageddon-level storm misses Western Pennsylvania and saves its worst for south-central Pennsylvania as forecasters predict, many of those... - [*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*](#)

- 01-22-2016 [**PennDOT, Oakmont, Harmar to keep Hulton Bridge implosion from becoming spectacle**](#)
 PennDOT, Oakmont and Harmar, are discouraging people from gathering Tuesday to watch the implosion of the Hulton Bridge. Police will start clearing people from a 1,000-foot safety zone around the bridge about 7:30 a.m. PennDOT will blow up the bridge at 10 a.m., weather... - [*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*](#)
- 01-22-2016 [**Pittsburgh Laurels & Lances**](#)
 On the "Watch List": • The Mon-Fayette Expressway. Now that Pennsylvanians are paying the highest gasoline tax in the country, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission says it has the dedicated funding to build the expressway's 14-mile extension from Route 51 to Monroeville. The price tag is \$1.75 billion.... - [*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*](#)
- 01-22-2016 [**New partnership will capture more braking power on SEPTA subway lines**](#)
 SEPTA and two energy services firms announced Thursday they had teamed up to expand the first-of-its-kind battery storage system that captures power from braking trains on the city's two subway systems. Constellation Energy Resources, a Baltimore subsidiary of Exelon Corp.,... - [*Philadelphia Inquirer*](#)
- 01-22-2016 [**Uber and Lyft say they'll go through the snow**](#)
 Lots of snow is expected to coat local roads this weekend. Juliet Ayebale is one Lyft driver who won't be on them. "I'm not a huge fan of driving in the snow," she said Thursday afternoon. Ayebale has been driving for Lyft for about two months, she said, and has... - [*Philadelphia Inquirer*](#)
- 01-22-2016 [**Snow tracks: Pa. plow info on tap online this weekend**](#)
 If you're the kind of driving enthusiast that sees a major snowstorm and thinks, "this would be a killer chance to do some joy riding on the Schuylkill Expressway," the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has the perfect new web feature for you. At 511PA.com motorists can track the progress of snow plows on major roads... - [*Philadelphia Inquirer*](#)
- 01-22-2016 [**Traffic Alert: Delays no longer expected on Pa. Turnpike between Carlisle and Gettysburg**](#)
 State officials have reported that roadwork at milepost 234 on the Pa. Turnpike is no longer affecting traffic. Earlier today, motorists traveling westbound on the Pa. turnpike between Exit 236, the exit for Gettysburg and Exit 226, the exit for Carlisle were... - [*Harrisburg Patriot-News*](#)
- 01-22-2016 [**Lehigh Valley braces for first major storm of 2016**](#)
 To put a positive spin on it, consider this weekend's pending snowstorm a Porsche or Lamborghini. Those sports cars are noted for their 0-60 acceleration, kind of like what the storm is expected to do for the Lehigh Valley's snow accumulation this winter. The Valley, where normally a foot of snow has fallen by now, has gotten... - [*Allentown Morning Call*](#)
- 01-22-2016 [**Passenger numbers up at airport - News**](#)
 PITTSTON TWP. — More passengers traveled from Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport last year than the year before. Ridership rose by 2.1 percent — from 216,256 in 2014 to 220,863 in 2015. The increase is partly because of new United Airlines flights connecting to Newark International Airport — a service that began in... - [*Scranton Times*](#)
- 01-22-2016 [**Airport ridership shows growth over previous year**](#)
 PITTSTON TWP. — More people traveled from Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport last year than the year before. Ridership rose by 2.1 percent — from 216,256 in 2014, to 220,863 in 2015. The increase is partly because of new United Airlines flights connecting to Newark International Airport — a service that began in... - [*Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice*](#)
- 01-22-2016 [**State officials say there won't be a repeat of notorious Valentine's Day 2007 storm**](#)
 In 2007, more than 1,000 people spent Valentine's Day stuck in a frozen stream of traffic on

Interstate 78. Tractor-trailers repeatedly jackknifed in 6 inches of ice and snow along a 50-mile stretch through Lebanon, Berks and Lehigh counties. Some were trapped for nearly 24 hours and slept in their vehicles. Others... - [Reading Eagle](#)

01-22-2016

[Berks congressmen tout budget, education, transportation as bipartisan achievements](#)

Reading, PA It may not seem so amid the current vitriolic presidential-election season, but there's been a good deal of cooperation on Capitol Hill lately, members of Berks County's congressional delegation told business leaders Thursday. During a Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce & Industry forum held at the... - [Reading Eagle](#)

01-22-2016

[Average BAC of people arrested in Somerset County is down](#)

A taxi driver recently thanked Pennsylvania State Police Sgt. Stephen Adamczyk. "His business has been great because people are calling for a ride instead of driving under the influence," the Somerset state police station commander told members of the Somerset County Drug-Free Communities... - [Somerset Daily](#)

01-22-2016

[Data indicates DUI arrests declining in Venango County](#)

DUI arrests in Venango County are on the decline. The decrease is likely due to increased public awareness and the efficacy of law enforcement and treatment efforts, said Robert E. Daugherty, the county's chief probation officer and the head of its DUI advisory board.... - [Oil City Derrick](#)

01-22-2016

[Older Drivers Hit the Road for Uber and Lyft](#)

When Carol Sue Johnson, 73, wheels her silver Mazda S.U.V. out of her driveway in suburban Minneapolis, she doesn't know how much money she will make driving for the ride-hailing service Uber, but she's sure she will have an adventure. Her passengers run the gamut, she said, from three visiting Chinese... - [New York Times](#)

01-22-2016

[In Philadelphia, Batteries on Transit System Power More Than Just the Trains](#)

Along Philadelphia's busy Market-Frankford subway line, the trains behave like those of any transit system, slowing to halt at the platforms and picking up passengers. But more is happening than meets the eye. In an experimental system that is soon to be more widely adopted, every time the trains pull into certain... - [New York Times](#)

01-22-2016

[Railroads take safety seriously](#)

All railroads are required to inspect their trains every 1,000 miles. A Bakken oil train to Philadelphia is inspected before it leaves South Dakota and again in the Chicago area. A person must walk the train looking at brakes, wheels, air hoses, etc. The process is repeated before the empty... - [Levittown Bucks County Courier Times](#)

01-22-2016

[High Tech Snowstorm: PennDOT Tests Tracking System In Several Dozen Trucks](#)

KING OF PRUSSIA, Pa. (CBS) — Call it snowplow voyeurism. PennDOT has just started testing a tracking system in several dozen trucks that will let you see what roads they've cleared and when. The souped-up GPS is called Automated Vehicle Location. PennDOT's John... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)

01-22-2016

[Travel Woes As American Airlines Cancels All Philadelphia Flights, Amtrak Modifies Service](#)

PHILADELPHIA (CBS) — Amtrak says there are no major cancellations, but it is possible it will change once the storm begins. In the meantime, Amtrak has modified some of its service in and out of Philadelphia. Meanwhile, American Airlines has announced it has cancelled ALL inbound and... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)

01-22-2016

[DuBois-Clearfield railroad project stalled](#)

One year ago, Timothy Potts of RJ Corman Railroad Company, came to the North Central

Regional Planning & Development Commission's board proposing a public-private partnership to breathe new life into a long-abandoned 26-mile rail corridor between Curwensville and DuBois.... - [DuBois Courier-Express](#)

01-22-2016

[Port Authority sets public hearings on proposed flat rate](#)

The Port Authority board this morning agreed to move ahead with public hearings on a proposal to charge one flat fare that would reduce cost for a quarter of its riders. The board approved a 60-day public comment period on the proposed change that would make all fares paid with the pre-paid Connectcard \$2.50. Cash... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

01-22-2016

[GM ignition switch trial ends abruptly amid claims of fraud](#)

NEW YORK (AP) - A trial that was supposed to help settle hundreds of lawsuits stemming from General Motors' faulty ignition switches abruptly ended Friday, a day after the judge raised questions about the plaintiff's truthfulness... - [AP](#)

01-22-2016

[@SenTonyWilliams](#)

Please note: SEPTA is suspending service on all buses, trolley, regional rail and Norristown high-speed lines at 4 am Saturday, 1/23 - [via Twitter](#)

01-22-2016

[Flight delays, cancellations begin in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia as storm looms](#)

The major winter storm heading toward Pennsylvania was already leading to travel disruptions Friday, with at least a dozen flights from Pittsburgh International Airport to points East canceled by midday Friday. Airlines had canceled about 18 departing flights and delayed two more out... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

01-22-2016

[PennDOT, Oakmont, Harmar to keep Hulton Bridge implosion from becoming spectacle](#)

PennDOT, Oakmont and Harmar, are discouraging people from gathering Tuesday to watch the implosion of the Hulton Bridge. Police will start clearing people from a 1,000-foot safety zone around the bridge about 7:30 a.m. PennDOT will blow up the bridge at 10 a.m., weather... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

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