

May 26, 2010

Testimony of ACEC/PA

- My name is Steve Bolt, I'm the President of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Pennsylvania and President of a Pennsylvania based consulting firm.
- ACEC/PA represents 132 Engineering Companies
- ACEC/PA represents over 10,000 employees and their families
- We are the engineers who design and inspect the Commonwealth's transportation infrastructure - state roads and bridges; county and municipal roads and bridges
- As professionals we are charged with and take seriously the safety of the traveling public
- We are profoundly concerned with the lack of funding to address our immediate infrastructure needs
- No comprehensive long term / sustainable funding solutions means...
 - Closed bridges
 - Detours
 - Increased congestion
 - Transit cuts
 - Threat to public safety
 - Reduced mobility
 - Community impacts
 - A less competitive Commonwealth
 - Job losses across the Commonwealth
- We have conducted an informal survey of ACEC/PA's membership –
 - Without a fully funded transportation program, over 75% of our firms expect to reduce their work force
 - Without full funding, 80% do not intend to hire recent college graduates, forcing these graduates to seek employment outside the Commonwealth
 - Our member firms receive 5 or more unsolicited professional resume's per month for positions that do not exist without full funding
 - With full funding, nearly 90% of our member firms would increase their workforce immediately

ACEC/PA endorses:

- A comprehensive funding solution to generate the \$3.5 Billion/year in the T.A.C. Report
- A gas tax increase or raising the oil company franchise tax cap. If either is enacted, ACEC/PA supports an annual inflation adjustment of 3%/year. We support inflation-sensitive increases in vehicle registration and driver licensing fees as well.
- Legislation to enable counties and municipalities to raise revenues for transportation use.
- P-3 legislation for new asset creation; however ACEC/PA recognizes that the majority of transportation funding has and will come from the public sector. P-3 legislation is an important tool but will not solve the funding crisis.
- Moving the Pennsylvania State Police costs from the motor license fund to the general fund.
- Development of a mileage based user fee to replace the gas tax as a primary transportation infrastructure finance tool.

It has been said from crisis comes significant opportunity. We have an opportunity now to resolve infrastructure issues that have been deferred for decades. We have an opportunity to leave the Commonwealth in better shape than we found it. We have an opportunity to prepare the Commonwealth's competitive advantages for future generations.

Let's not complain, say it's not our fault we're in this position, let us demonstrate leadership now, and ask ourselves why not now?

Thank you.