

Wolfe, Amanda

Subject: FW: Written Testimony Only: Samuel Hurst RE: Rainy Day Fund for Transit Agencies

From: Samuel J Hurst

Subject: Re: Suggestion - Rainy Day Fund for Transit Agencies

Rep Markosek,

Thank you for taking the time to review my ideas/suggestions. Also, thank you for taking the time to have Fridays' public hearing.

A) I am not sure if all of the revenue from the Allegheny County Pooled Drink Tax (aka "The Dan Onorato Tax") is being used for Transit. If it is not, then I would ask that a larger share if not all of it would be.

B) When Port Authority first began their transit woes numerous years ago, the idea of amending the State Constitution so that a small portion of the Gas Tax could be used for transit. Like your response, people didn't push it because "it would take too long". That was over five years ago. If it were pushed then, it may have happened by now and we wouldn't be in this drier straits we are in today. "It would take too long and we need it now" can not be the reason why which we do not try. I feel at the very least, it is an idea that should be publically entertained as a "Long Term Solution". However, if the reason to decline this was due to the concern of losing revenue to streets/highways/bridges while they are in such need, I could completely understand at this time.

C & D) Thank you. Any savings without raising the base fare, cutting service, laying off Pennsylvanian Workers and without raising any taxes, no matter how little the savings, should be instituted. According to today's Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Article "Port Authority: \$7 Suburban Fares Possible" <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/10165/1065451-147.stm> It appears that the Port Authority has already considered raising fares to a point higher in which I suggested the 28X Airport Flyer fare. I would hope at the very least, the 28X is the first route on the list for such an increase.

E) Rainy Day Fund / Pennsylvania Mass Transit Savings Fund. Once again, this is a long term solution so as to when there are budget surpluses, the Port Authority and other PA Mass Transit agencies can save those funds for times like this. The Market has its ups and downs, so does Tax Revenue and public entities. This would cost nothing to start and would possibly help a great deal in the future.

Once again, thank you for your time in this matter.

Sincerely,
Samuel J Hurst