

House Transportation Hearing  
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Monroeville, Pennsylvania



Charles Niederriter.  
Golden Triangle Construction  
Imperial, Pennsylvania

Transportation Majority Leader Markosek, Minority Leader Geist, and members of the Transportation and Policy Committees; Good morning, my name is Chuck Niederriter and I am the Chief Operating Officer of Golden Triangle Construction Company. I serve on the Board of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Concrete Pavement Association.

Golden Triangle has been in business for over 50 years. During peak construction season, our company employs around 300 salaried and hourly craft workers who build highway, airport and utility projects in western Pennsylvania. One of the largest segments of our business has historically been the concrete paving work that we do. Unfortunately, we are now facing a time of reduced funding for roadway construction and repairs in general, and exacerbating this for my company is the fact that the proportion of those limited funds that goes to concrete paving has decreased even further.

My company has built many miles of concrete pavement, including a section of Interstate 79 that has required zero maintenance over twenty years. Today, the primary projects keeping my concrete paving division working are Mon-Fayette Turnpike projects, and the first major concrete overlay of an asphalt pavement in recent Pennsylvania history; both of these projects will be substantially completed this year. If not for these projects, many of my employees would be looking elsewhere for whatever limited work there is for craft workers. Without immediate action, the concrete paving industry, along with the cement industry, the equipment manufacturing industry, the steel industry, the people who work in these industries to support their families will all be negatively affected.

Over the course of the past several weeks, you have heard from several members of the concrete paving industry. Pennsylvania has had a long and generally successful history of using concrete pavements. We have a product that is derived from materials mined and manufactured right here in Pennsylvania, a product that is sustainable, a product that is cost-competitive on a first-cost basis, a product that meets and exceeds one of the most stringent ride specifications in the nation, a product that is durable, long-lasting, and can be restored to a like-new condition when needed. When you include all the contractors, concrete product manufacturers and the cement industry, we are an industry that collectively employs over 39,000 hard working Pennsylvanians. Prior to this recession, we collectively generated over \$6 billion annually in economic activity for our state, contributing over \$300 million in sales taxes and over \$400 million in Federal, State and Local income taxes.

The concrete pavement industry, as members of the Transportation Construction Industry and the Keystone Transportation Funding Coalition, is in full support of a \$4.8 billion annual transportation infrastructure program to address unmet infrastructure needs. We will support traditional and innovative methods for reaching this ambitious but much needed level of investment.

It probably will be said that this type of funding is self-serving to the concrete paving and cement industries, as well as to all others in the construction industry. Perhaps this is true to some extent, but it is also true that we care about the employees and families that work in these industries. A long-term commitment to the infrastructure will keep Pennsylvania citizens, union and non-union alike, working with good paying jobs and benefits, and keep them out of the unemployment lines. With this type of investment in our infrastructure and in our people, we will be able to build viable transportation projects that will be enjoyed by our children and grandchildren. We would, for example, be able to complete the entire Mon-Fayette/Southern Beltway corridor, spurring development of old mill sites and thereby also creating good jobs for thousands of Pennsylvanians who do not directly work in the construction industry.

A long-term investment in our infrastructure will make our system safer and less congested, and it will help the economy of the Commonwealth recover and once again prosper. On behalf of the concrete paving industry, we sincerely appreciate having had this opportunity to testify before you these past several weeks. I would be happy to answer for you any questions that you may have. Thank you.

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