

**Testimony of Bob Housel on behalf of the Transportation Construction Industries
Before the Joint House Transportation and Policy Committee
June 10, 2010**

Mr. Chairmen, my name is Bob Housel. I am Vice President for Masters Ready Mixed Concrete of Kingsley, PA. I am here on behalf of the Transportation Construction Industries (TCI), the unified voice of the materials and construction industries in Pennsylvania. TCI represents a broad array of interests including concrete and aggregates producers, hot mix asphalt firms, contractors, materials suppliers, equipment dealers, service providers and consulting firms.

TCI worked with the Keystone Transportation Funding Coalition (KTFC) to develop a vision of a 21st Century transportation program. The vision was developed with input from highway and public transit advocates, smart growth advocates, organized labor, the general business community, agriculture, system users such as AAA and AARP, bicycle and pedestrian advocates, aviation systems and others.

Similar to the Transportation Advisory Council, the KTFC vision of a 21st century comprehensive plan would double annual transportation construction to nearly \$5 billion per year. The TCI program proposes:

- Increase PennDOT's funding for maintaining existing highways and bridges from its current \$1.5 billion per year to \$2.0 billion.
- Fund capacity projects for highways and transit with an annual increase of \$2 billion.
- Increase annual county and local governments' allocations of state funds from \$360 million to \$1 billion per year.

The benefits of such action would be:

- **Better quality of life.** A well-funded transportation program will relieve traffic congestion, improve personal safety and create thousands of jobs.
- **Safer Commonwealth roads.** Better roads and more efficient traffic flow – to which public transit and freight and passenger rail make a significant contribution – provide a greater degree of safety for the motorists and families who are using our roads.
- **Improved public transit.** No need to continue to “rob Peter to pay Paul.” There is no reason for various transportation modes to compete with one another for an inadequate level of resources. Inadequate funding hurts all modes and those who use them. A rising tide lifts all boats.
- **Local tax relief.** While PennDOT is responsible for maintaining 40,000 miles of roads, local governments are responsible for nearly twice that amount. A transportation funding program that gives local governments the resources they need will benefit every single Pennsylvania resident and will relieve the pressure on local property taxes.
- **Economic development/JOBS.** Creating jobs is the most important issue in Pennsylvania. Transportation projects will create those jobs!

Bob Housel
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Action Would Reduce Commonwealth Unemployment by 10 Percent

The American Road & Transportation Builders Association has quantified the impact of doubling Pennsylvania's transportation capital construction program. The study concluded that doubling transportation investment creates more than 50,000 jobs in Pennsylvania, more than half of which are in industries other than construction, such as manufacturing and health care.

State Transportation Advisory Committee Recommends Long-Term Solution

In May 2010, the State Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) released a report recommending an immediate need for approximately \$3.5 billion annually in new funding to improve the condition of the state's highway, bridge and transit infrastructure. The report also states that Pennsylvania has extensive transportation needs which will require a variety of broad-based funding approaches, some of which could be applied in the near term and others over a longer time period.

TAC Report Recommended Funding (millions)

	2010 Need	2020 Need	2030 Need
Highway & Bridge	\$2,576	\$4,693	\$6,545
Public Transportation	\$484	\$1,383	\$3,063
Local Government	\$432	\$670	\$1,092
TOTAL	\$3,492	\$6,746	\$10,700

The Transportation Construction Industries' vision for a long-term, comprehensive funding solution is embodied in the TAC report. It is this vision that is now shared by other transportation advocates and can be viewed on the Transportation Construction Industries web site at: www.tci-pac.org

The time to act is now if we are to ensure to our children and parents that all of our roads, bridges and transit infrastructure will remain safe and sound not just for today but for years to come.

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