

From: Maria Culp [mailto:mculp@centralpachamber.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2010 4:28 PM
To: Ritter, Stacey
Subject: PA House Transportation Committee Hearing in Clarion

Stacia,

I apologize for not responding sooner to your inquiry into our general email box here at the Chamber about the hearing 6/17 in Clarion but I have been out of the office sick, and unfortunately with no voice now that I am back -- will be unable to attend. It actually would have made more sense for me, to be invited to the Lock Haven hearing as Milton is a couple of hundred miles from Clarion.

If I were to answer the questions included in your email, they would be as follows:

- 1) Do I believe that our public transportation & state highway and bridge systems are in financial crisis?
Short answer YES – but it has been that way for decades.
In central PA we don't have any real public transportation so highways and bridges are our only real immediate concern. With mostly 2 lane roads running through the hearts of most of our downtowns and few limited access highways except for I-80, I-180/147 and some sections of Route 15, the CSVT By-pass which would include a fix for the borough of Northumberland and Route 11 is our priority. It is the only unimproved section of Route 15 in PA that strangles 5 communities regularly and if there is an accident you can forget traveling to work or anywhere else for hours. This has been talked about for 25 years as a needed improvement.
- 2) How has PA's deficient infrastructure directly or indirectly impacted our business or community?
Reference the above CSVT By-pass, its incompleteness has left a region bottlenecked and growth capacity stifled. Every business sees an impact as locals can't drive to local businesses for basic needs and services.
- 3) Is inaction acceptable? No.
- 4) If inaction is not acceptable – what level of funding is necessary for the improvements I am advocating?
\$400 million at a minimum for CSVT
- 5) How would I solve the funding crisis? I would use a comprehensive approach to eliminate waste and make users pay for their fair share.
 - a) Stop robbing the Federal Highway Funds allocated to PA for mass transit in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. It is for roads and bridges.
 - b) Stop funding the State Police budget from the Highway Motor fund.
 - c) Raise the GAS TAX 8 to 10 cents immediately – easiest way to make users pay.
 - d) Raise the registration for passenger vehicles and light trucks.
 - e) Make all Mass Transit agencies fund a minimum of 20% of their own operating budgets and capital improvement projects. (That's the same as local match for highways & bridges).
 - f) Get rid of the PA Turnpike Commission, it is the 3rd most wasteful tolling agency in the country.
 - g) Make riders of Mass transit systems pay 10% of the operating costs of systems.

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