



HARRISBURG REGIONAL CHAMBER.  
CAPITAL REGION ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



The  
Lancaster  
Chamber  
of Commerce & Industry



## Position Statement: Transportation

WHEREAS, the Harrisburg Regional, Lancaster, and York County Chambers recognize that transportation maintenance, planning, and expansion costs exceed available federal, state, and local funds for transportation; and

WHEREAS, the transportation infrastructure in South Central Pennsylvania, and throughout the state, is critical for continued and expanded economic development and job growth; and

WHEREAS, any transportation planning efforts should make use of various available modes of transportation such as rail, air, and road and strive to link them together to effectively transport individuals for business and recreational travel, in addition to the movement of goods; and

WHEREAS, the support and promotion of public transportation as well as the use of carpooling, ride-sharing, walking, and biking can help mitigate traffic congestion; and

WHEREAS, the Susquehanna Area Regional Airport Authority offers an opportunity for Central Pennsylvania to have low-cost carriers and ability to utilize air travel, and the CORRIDORone regional rail project has the potential to relieve traffic congestion, increase travel within our region, and create jobs, while increasing the region's economic base; and

WHEREAS, the state must anticipate future population growth trends and potential expansions or reconstruction of infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, land use must be considered in the development of current projects and future projects along with their potential growth and usage; and

WHEREAS, 70,000 miles of Pennsylvania's roadways and 3,400 of Pennsylvania's bridges currently require needed maintenance and preservation, while funding shortfalls continue to delay these needed repairs; and

WHEREAS, the state's mass transit agencies continuously increase fares, while decreasing routes and other services due to continued financial shortfalls; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania General Assembly and U.S. Congress are debating how to best meet the transportation system funding demands through a variety of avenues; and

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Chambers recommend that the federal and state governments take the following actions to work toward a comprehensive solution for the Commonwealth's transportation needs and infrastructure:

1. Continue to support the **reauthorization of the federal transportation bill**, TEA 21 (TEA-LU), in order to provide states with the needed information about funding and other initiatives, so that they can adequately plan improvements and limit any delay in existing projects.

*This position statement was adopted by the Harrisburg Regional, Lancaster, and York County Chambers in June 2005 in an effort to advance reforms that are cooperatively supported by the business community of the South Central Pennsylvania region.*

2. **Re-evaluate Pennsylvania's transportation funding needs** relative to current and future demands for all components of the state's transportation system, as overseen by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.
3. **Encourage PennDOT to continue its current efforts to perform long-term strategic planning** and lead other states to develop similar plans, which will help the planning and appropriations process.
4. **Analyze possible applications of alternative fuel sources** and how this will affect the current gas tax structure and appropriations process due to the continued increase in the cost of oil and gas, and the continued progress of fuel alternatives' research.

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