ACT 89 & TRANSPORTATION NEWS

These links may expire:

February 28
Cumberland County lowers weight restrictions on four county bridges
CARLISLE — Drivers will see new weight restrictions on four Cumberland County bridges as the March 31 deadline to post these limitations draws near. Commissioners voted Thursday to authorize the advertising of an ordinance that would restrict the weight allowed on Orrs Bridge in Hampden Township,... - Carlisle Sentinel

February 27
Obama proposes $302 billion transportation bill, to be funded partly by tax code reforms
ST. PAUL, Minn. — President Obama came to a renovated bus and rail terminal here Wednesday to call on lawmakers to pass a four-year, $302 billion bill to revitalize the nation’s transportation infrastructure, a plan that would derive part of its funding from reforms to the tax code.... - Washington Post

Cumberland County commissioners eye $5 registration fee to fund bridge repairs
CARLISLE — With $5 million to $10 million worth of structurally deficient bridge repairs pending in Cumberland County, Commissioner Barbara Cross said she advocates adding a $5 fee to vehicle registrations permitted by the new state transportation bill. Cumberland County could receive $1.16 million from the $5 levy according to... - Harrisburg Patriot-News

Event showcases Armstrong road, bridge projects
A winding part of Route 422 will be straightened and 35 bridges will be fixed in Armstrong County starting this spring with funding generated by a law adopted in November that changed the way gasoline is taxed in the state. These projects and others in Armstrong and Indiana counties will be... - Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

Average gas price in Harrisburg is high but still lower than last year
The average price for gas today in the Harrisburg area is 10 cents higher than a month ago, according to GasBuddy.com. But, it is still 15 cents a gallon lower than this time last year. The average price in the Harrisburg area is $3.58 a gallon – the same as a week ago.... - Harrisburg Patriot-News

February 26
Transportation plans to be aired
State Rep. Dave Reed, R-Indiana; state Rep. Sam Smith, R-Punxsutawney; state Rep. Jeff Pyle, R-Ford City; and state Sen. Don White, R-Indiana, invite residents to learn more about planned transportation projects at an initiatives display on Thursday at the Indiana County Technology Center,... - Indiana Gazette

Railroad projects in Berks County among 33 projects to get state grants
Railroad projects in Berks County will get funding from a batch of grants approved by the Pennsylvania State Transportation Commission. >>>>Continue - Reading Eagle

February 25
Funding puts PennDOT projects back in gear
Plans for widening Route 22 through the heart of the Lehigh Valley and other long-term transportation projects are back in gear, regional planners said Monday, thanks to last year’s passage of a funding bill in Harrisburg. Widening 22 between 15th Street and Airport Road has been an on-again,... - Allentown Morning Call
February 24

Transit Authority board looks down road
Last Thursday's meeting of the Transit Authority of Warren County's (TAWC) board of directors featured discussion of capital expenditures both immediate and long-term. TAWC Director John Aldrich reported the organization has applied for shared ride capital funds for two new buses and should be notified soon if the...

- Warren Times Observer

Aston gets $82,500 from PennDot
ASTON — PennDOT has awarded the township an ARLE grant in the amount of $82,500. The application was prepared by the office of the township engineer. The funds will be used to improve monitoring and communication at six traffic signals.

- Primos Delaware County Daily and Sunday Times

PennDOT-private partnership to replace local bridges
Harrisburg >> Pennsylvania is moving ahead with plans to quickly replace hundreds of its nearly 4,500 structurally deficient bridges with the help of a private consortium. The consortium would design and build the bridges within five years, then maintain them for a quarter century. Several bridges are in south-central...

- Chambersburg Public Opinion

Gas tax hike helping to fill snow-drive budget holes
If the increased cost of gas has you grumbling at the pump, some comfort may be found in the fact that the additional money you’re paying will help cover the road-related costs of this extraordinary winter weather. The increased gas tax is really the gradual removal of a cap that has been...

- Norristown Times Herald

Poconos to reap benefits of gas tax
The gas tax hike approved by the Pennsylvania General Assembly last year to expedite road and bridge repairs will greatly improve Monroe County's infrastructure, said a national road contractors' trade association. The gas tax hike, which went into effect this year as part of a five-year...

- Pocono Record

February 20

Transportation plan provides more benefits
HARRISBURG- Governor Tom Corbett announced today that Pennsylvania's new transportation plan will allow PennDOT to distribute $345 million in liquid fuels payments to certified municipalities on March 3 to help them maintain their roads and bridges. The allocation is $25.1 million more than the 2013 figure, roughly an 8...

- Honesdale Wayne Independent

Liquid fuels fund gets boost from transportation bill
The new state transportation funding bill passed in the fall includes a hefty gasoline tax hike at the pump that no one is thrilled about. But one of the upsides of the bill is a robust increase in state liquid fuels funding to local municipalities, $220 million in the next five years....

- Williamsport Sun-Gazette

PennDOT sets $535,000 aside for Berks community projects
Think your community could use a new walking trail, more streetlights or a more pedestrian-friendly Main Street? Now might be a good time to >>>> Continue

- Reading Eagle

February 19

Red Rose Transit considers public recommendations
Less time between buses on longer, rural routes, a simplified fare structure and possibly an express bus on Lincoln Highway East that pulls ahead at stoplights. Those were among the recommendations the Red Rose Transit Authority is hearing from passengers as it begins planning for coming years....

- Lancaster Intelligencer Journal

Pa. bridge fixes fast-tracked
Some 18 aging, structurally deficient bridges in Monroe County might be repaired next year under a
single statewide contract covering about 500 bridges. Five teams of private contractors submitted statements this month outlining their qualifications and ability to work on a massive number of bridges,... - Pocono Record

February 18
Transportation bill’s impact felt immediately
JOHNSTOWN — The benefits of Pennsylvania’s new transportation bill are meant to be long term: safer bridges, better roads, construction jobs, improved infrastructure for commerce and travel. But the economic impact to citizens has been immediate. Part of the plan,... - Johnstown Tribune-Democrat

February 17
20 bridges in Erie region are candidates to be replaced
Twenty bridges in the Erie region are candidates to be replaced through a new project aimed at reducing the number of structurally deficient bridges statewide. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation recently announced that five teams -- each one composed of construction companies, engineering groups... - Erie Times-News

February 11
Pa. to privatize bridges; what will it mean?
Friday marked the beginning of a new era. It was the deadline for companies or consortiums to tell PennDOT they are interested in a massive program to rebuild 500 bridges across the state — including 33 in Lancaster County — over the course of the next six years.... - Lancaster Intelligencer Journal

February 10
Lycoming County sees boost in money for roads, bridges
Lycoming County municipalities will get some significant help for road and bridge work in 2014, thanks to an increase in funding of roughly $305,000. The state Department of Transportation will distribute $345 million in liquid fuels funds this year, which is a $25 million increase over 2013.... - Williamsport Sun-Gazette

Pa. to allocate $25.1M in liquid fuels money
Pennsylvania’s new transportation plan will allow the Department of Transportation to distribute $345 million in liquid fuels payments to certified municipalities on March 3 to help them maintain their roads and bridges, Gov. Tom Corbett said. The allocation is $25.1 million more than the 2013 figure, roughly an 8... - Hazleton Standard-Speaker

February 9
Pennsylvania boosts road and bridge maintenance funding
Northampton and Lehigh counties will see an extra $1.2 million to help maintain roads and bridges. The statewide 8 percent boost in liquid fuels funding is due to the new Pennsylvania transportation plan, signed into law in November. The $345 million will be distributed to certified municipalities on March 3.... - Easton Express-Times

Bridge bundling program could bring relief to Northampton County infrastructure needs
Northampton County officials hope that a new state pilot program will pick up the cost of some of its needed bridge repairs as the county struggles to keep up with its infrastructure demands. Northampton County Council members praised Councilman Robert Werner last.... - Easton Express-Times

February 7
Locals to get $599K more for road work
Some Luzerne County municipalities will see their state subsidies for road and bridge maintenance and repair significantly boosted this year. All 67 municipalities will see increases over 2013 funding, ranging from a low of 7.7 percent more in Bear Creek Village, New Columbus Borough and... - Wilkes-Barre Times Leader
Poconos to get $8.6M from liquid fuels fund
Pocono municipalities will receive almost $600,000 in additional liquid fuels funds this year, an 8 percent increase over last year. The state will send $25 million more in liquid fuels payments to certified municipalities. A total of $345 million will be distributed.... - Pocono Record

February 6
Commissioners voting Thursday on $6.2 million in LSA projects
Anyone who depends on the bus route known as the Washington County Transportation Authority’s Freedom Line to get to work or go shopping may be able to breathe a sigh of relief. State and federal funding, due to run out June 30, appears more likely to continue because the service is on track to receive $51,044 this year from... - Washington Observer-Reporter

Beyond thruway, $65M to be spent on Northumberland County roads, bridges
Over the next 10 years, Northumberland County residents will see nearly $65 million in road and bridge improvements as part of what Gov. Tom Corbett billed the Decade of Investment. That's in addition to the $558.5 million earmarked for the Greater Susquehanna Valley Thruway Project, the largest single project in the... - Shamokin News-Item

February 5
Average gas price today is 20 cents a gallon lower than last year
The Harrisburg area average gas price today is 20 cents a gallon lower than this time last year, according to GasBuddy.com. The lowest gas price in the area also has fallen – to $3.30 a gallon at Turkey Hill in Highspire. The average gas price is $3.47 a gallon, 2 cents lower than a week ago and... - Harrisburg Patriot-News

Tour lays out potential stops for $200 million Bus Rapid Transit proposal
Universities could host stops for a dedicated express bus system linking Oakland and Downtown, Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto and Allegheny County Rich Fitzgerald said Wednesday. Peduto, Fitzgerald, Pittsburgh City Council members Daniel Lavelle and Dan Gilman and Port Authority officials took a bus tour along potential routes... - Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

January 31
#HBGNext: PennDOT promises fast work with this year's $2 million of pothole and paving money
Here’s some good news on the #HBGNext front: It looks as if help will be coming soon for the confusing jumble of potholed lanes that greets drivers coming into Harrisburg from I-83 — and for many other rough roads in the city. PennDOT Secretary Barry Schoch joined Mayor Eric Papenfuse and state Rep.... - Harrisburg Patriot-News

January 30
Bridge fixes on fast track
Pennsylvania, infamously, is home to more structurally deficient bridges than any other state - about 4,200. That's 18 percent of the state's total number of bridges, compared with a national average of 7 percent. Because of the state's heavy reliance on transportation industries to help... - Hazleton Standard-Speaker

Pa. lifts weight limits on 2 Manheim bridges
State-imposed weight limits have been lifted on two Manheim bridges, reopening them to heavy truck traffic along High Street, the borough’s east-west corridor. Borough officials announced the move Jan. 28. The restrictions had been imposed in September. The West High Street bridge over Rife Run was restricted to 30 tons and 40... - Lancaster Intelligencer Journal

January 28
Legislators officially join forces on bridge investigation
TRENTON The Legislature voted unanimously Monday to establish a joint panel to investigate disruptive lane closures in September at the George Washington Bridge, though Republicans continued to voice frustration with the Democrat-led effort. The decision comes 10 days after the Assembly and Senate created separate... - Philadelphia Inquirer
Lack of workers may stall road, bridge projects
HARRISBURG — Millions of dollars in road and bridge projects are jamming the state’s construction calendar, but a trade group warns there may not be enough workers unless the Legislature reverses an unemployment reform passed in 2012. The reform cracked down on workers who make all their money in a few... - Johnstown Tribune-Democrat

January 27
Transportation bill comes with both costs and benefits
Pennsylvania, infamously, is home to more structurally deficient bridges than any other state - about 4,200. That's 18 percent of the state's total number of bridges, compared with a national average of 7 percent. Because of the state's heavy reliance on transportation industries to help... - Towanda Daily Review

January 24
State on track at last to fix bridges
Pennsylvania, infamously, is home to more structurally deficient bridges than any other state - about 4,200. That's 18 percent of the state's total number of bridges, compared with a national average of 7 percent. Because of the state's heavy reliance on transportation industries to help... - Shamokin News-Item

January 23
State's vehicle registration fee hike is worth it
Drivers are sensitive to any government-imposed increase in their costs, but they and their vehicles also are sensitive to potholes and poorly maintained roads and bridges. A new state law is going to take more money out of their pockets in fuel taxes but it's also going to deliver vastly better roads and bridges.... - Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice

Rapid repair bridge plan sound idea
Pennsylvania, infamously, is home to more structurally deficient bridges than any other state - about 4,200. That's 18 percent of the state's total number of bridges, compared with a national average of 7 percent. Because of the state's heavy reliance on transportation industries to help... - Scranton Times

Firms to build 13 Valley bridges
HARRISBURG — A state Department of Transportation program, expanded under a comprehensive roads bill passed into law in November, could help replace and maintain 13 Valley bridges. The Public-Private Partnership — “P3” — will rebuild about 500 deficient bridges across Pennsylvania by having PennDOT contract the... - Sunbury Daily Item

January 22
Traffic worth fixing
Traffic worth fixing I would like to thank Gov. Tom Corbett, state Rep. Bill Kortz, D-Dravosburg, and state Rep. Marc Gergely, D-White Oak, for working together in a bipartisan way to pass the recent transportation bill. I would also like to give special thanks to Allegheny County Chief Executive... - Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

January 21
PennDOT offering private sector a partnership to fix bridges
The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation hopes to team with private industry to take a giant bite out of the state’s inventory of deficient bridges. At least 500 decaying bridges would be replaced starting in 2015 under a partnership in which a private entity would be selected to design, build... - Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

January 20
Hearing set on Chester transportation services
Dear Chester County bus and train riders: The county wants to hear from you. Next month, the county Planning Commission, in partnership with the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission,
will hold a public hearing to get input on how to make the county’s public transportation services... - *Pottstown Mercury*

**Fee could raise $4M for counties in Northeast Pennsylvania**
Northeast Pennsylvania’s seven counties could collect more than $4 million per year for transportation projects starting next year if officials assess an optional $5 vehicle registration fee on their residents. The state’s $2.3 billion transportation bill authorizes counties to collect... - *Scranton Times*

**January 17**
**Vehicle license tax considered**
MERCER COUNTY — Though details are sketchy, Mercer County Commissioner Chairman John Lechner acknowledged that Pennsylvania’s newly passed transportation funding reform allows the county to levy a $5 tax on all vehicle registrations beginning in 2015. The three-man board made no move Wednesday to do anything with the... - *Sharon Herald*

**Berks County transportation planners to finalize draft list of roadwork projects**
PennDOT and Berks County transportation planners expect to have a rough idea by mid-February of how the first wave of extra roadwork money coming to the county as a result of the recent statewide funding boost will be used. Reading Area Transportation Study, the panel that plans transportation... - *Reading Eagle*

**COMMENTARY: ALISON PREMO BLACK Road spending will get Pa. moving**
There is an old axiom that politics is the art of the doable. Bipartisan leadership in the Pennsylvania General Assembly and from Gov. Tom Corbett in approving a new five-year transportation investment law is the latest example of what can be done when elected leaders come together in the... - *Wilkes-Barre Times Leader*

**January 16**
**PennDOT welcomes paving funds**
PITTSTON TWP. - The state Department of Transportation's regional office did not have enough money for routine paving this year before state lawmakers passed the $2.3 billion transportation package, PennDOT’s district executive said Tuesday. George Roberts said officials are still analyzing the first influx of... - *Hazleton Standard-Speaker*

**January 15**
**Transportation funding surges for Northeast Pennsylvania**
PennDOT welcomes paving funds PITTSTON TWP. - The state Department of Transportation's regional office did not have enough money for routine paving this year before state lawmakers passed the $2.3 billion transportation package, PennDOT’s district executive said.... - *Scranton Times*

**Funding for roads debated at congressional hearing**
WASHINGTON -- During a congressional hearing Tuesday, there was no disagreement about the need to improve the nation's highways, bridges and transportation systems. The challenge will be how to pay for it. House Transportation Committee chairman Bill Shuster, R-Blair, isn't ready... - *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

**January 13**
**Municipalities target road repairs with tax revenue**
An additional $732,131 will be channeled to Luzerne County municipalities this spring in the first year of Pennsylvania’s new transportation law, estimates show. In five years, Luzerne County municipalities will collectively gain $5.18 million in projected new liquid fuels tax revenue as funding gradually... - *Hazleton Standard-Speaker*

**January 12**
**Following Pennsylvania's bipartisan example, Congress must fix the Highway Trust Fund**
There is an old axiom that politics is the art of the possible. Bipartisan leadership in the Pennsylvania General Assembly and from Gov. Tom Corbett in approving a new five-year transportation investment
law is the latest example of what can be done when elected leaders come together in the... - *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

January 9
**SEPTA unveils capital improvement plan, state transportation funding bill will allow authority to address pressing needs**

PHILADELPHIA – SEPTA on Dec. 19 presented a new capital improvement plan for addressing some of the transit system’s most pressing needs, including critical infrastructure upgrades and equipment replacement. The plan, called “Catching Up,” was detailed during the regularly... - *Bucks Local News*

Commissioners move ahead with regional transportation study
Warren County will participate in Phase Two of a PennDOT regional transportation study, the Warren County Commissioners decided at their meeting Wednesday morning. The study, requested by Gov. Tom Corbett’s Transportation Funding Advisory Commission in 2011 and started last August, comes at no cost to the county,... - *Warren Times Observer*

January 8
**Fuel tax to aid dam repairs in Western Pennsylvania region**

A transportation funding bill aimed primarily at fixing roads and bridges will benefit anglers and boaters, too. Act 89, signed into law by Gov. Tom Corbett in November, raised fuel taxes starting on Jan. 1. That's means higher gas prices at the pump, for motorboaters as much as drivers.... - *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*

January 7
**Fuel tax to aid dam repairs in Western Pennsylvania region**

A transportation funding bill aimed primarily at fixing roads and bridges will benefit anglers and boaters, too. Act 89, signed into law by Gov. Tom Corbett in November, raised fuel taxes starting on Jan. 1. That's means higher gas prices at the pump, for motorboaters as much as drivers.... - *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*

January 6
**Letter: Investments in new transportation bill will pay off through the year**

To the Times: As the executive director of the Transportation Management Association of Chester County, I track transportation articles of regional significance. We appreciated all the positive support that the Delaware County Daily Times has provided during the debate prior to the new transportation bill.... - *Primos Delaware County Daily and Sunday Times*

**Gas prices could see a freeze along with temperatures**

GasBuddy Senior Petroleum Analyst Patrick DeHaan says average gas prices could decrease during winter the months. "While the cold weather is about to lock the country into a deep freeze, we're also seeing a bit of a freeze in the national average," DeHaan said." For much of the week ahead, we may see the freeze at the pump.... - *Harrisburg Patriot-News*

January 3
**Influential civic coalition pledges to keep pro-transportation lawmakers in office**

A coalition of Pennsylvania special interests that worked behind the scenes to get a comprehensive transportation bill approved late last year has also agreed to help all the lawmakers that voted for it stay in office – regardless of party affiliation. The Keystone Transportation Funding Coalition – made up of 152... - *Harrisburg Patriot-News*

**Gas tax not hitting pumps too hard yet**

After the ball dropped, prices at the pump rose in Pennsylvania, but not as significantly as many speculated they would. A bill passed by state lawmakers and signed by Gov. Tom Corbett went into effect Jan. 1, raising the tax on gasoline for wholesalers and distributors... - *Washington Observer-Reporter*
Bridge projects slated for 2014
A new year will bring a new batch of bridge projects in Schuylkill County. The largest project to start in 2014 is the restoration of county bridge No. 113, also known as the Rock Covered Bridge. The Burr Arch Truss-style bridge runs over the Little Swatara Creek on Newswanger Road in Washington... - Pottsville Republican and Evening Herald

January 2
Paying for roads
The authors of the column "When is it enough? Pennsylvania takes another dive into taxpayers' pockets" don't get it. The fact is that Gov. Corbett and the state legislators who voted for the transportation-funding bill in November get what these authors do not... - Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

Lebanon County will benefit from state transportation funding plan
Lebanon County stands to gain significant additional funding as a result of the recently passed state transportation funding package. The funding plan will generate more than $7 billion for the state's transportation system during the next five years in several phases,... - Lebanon Daily News

Pumping out the Pennsylvania gas tax facts
There's been a lot of debate over the $2.3 billion boost to transportation funding Gov. Tom Corbett and the Legislature approved in November. On one hand, it will help Berks County and the rest of the state pay for road and bridge projects, such as widening Route 222 between Reading and... - Reading Eagle

How PennDOT will spend funding down the road
How PennDOT will spend funding down the road The changes in the transportation bill are expected to generate an extra $2.3 billion annually after they're phased in over five years. Here's how PennDOT plans to spend the money: State-owned roads and bridges: $1.3 billion (57 percent)... - Reading Eagle

Pennsylvania transportation bill timeline
The changes in the transportation bill are phased in over five years: 2014 Flat gas tax is eliminated and oil company franchise tax increased. Franchise tax cap is lifted to $1.87 per gallon from $1.25 per gallon. Threshold for public works projects to pay prevailing wage increases to... - Reading Eagle

Higher gas tax goes into effect, but experts think gas prices overall will drop slightly
Taxes on gasoline and diesel in Pennsylvania were higher as of Wednesday, the first of three increases being imposed by a new law, but that does not necessarily mean that motorists filling up their tanks in the state will pay more at the pump than they did in 2013... - AP

December 31
Pa. gas tax to rise Jan. 1, again in 2015 and '17
Expect to pay more at Pennsylvania gas pumps starting Wednesday, as the first wave of a series of tax hikes takes effect. "Fuel companies will determine how much of the tax increase to pass on to consumers,” said PennDOT spokesman Richard Kirkpatrick. "If entirely passed on, the change would be about 9.5 cents a gallon.”... - Philadelphia Inquirer

December 29
BCTA to add new buses in January
ROCHESTER -- The Beaver County Transit Authority will add six new 57-passenger MCI coach buses in January, officials announced this month. The new buses are equipped with quieter, fuel-saving 2013 Environmental Protection Agency-compliant engine technology and provide greater comfort... - Beaver County Times

How your taxes subsidize central planning
The next time you swipe your debit or credit card at the gas pump, you'll be doing more than filling your tank. You'll also be helping to finance parks, bike paths, pedestrian walkways, overlooks, viewing
areas, parking lots, turnouts, "stack-and-pack" housing and government land grabs... - Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

December 27
New gas tax can help pay for roads and transportation
A MAJOR FEDERAL program is on desperate financial footing. It’s too important and popular to cut drastically. But a combination of changing social patterns, technological innovation and bad policy design has thrown its accounts far out of balance, and it has begun to eat into general... - Washington Post

No. 5 - Bridging the gap on transportation funding: 13 for '13
From now until Dec. 29, PennLive Opinion is counting down the 13 most notable developments of 2013. At No. 5, we take a look at this year's debate over transportation funding. The Big Story. It didn't take a civil engineer to tell you that the General Assembly... - Harrisburg Patriot-News

December 26
Letters to the Editor - 12/27/2013
Cheers for Corbett, PennDOT workers Editor: I want to applaud the recent passage of the transportation revenue bill. Pennsylvania has a huge investment in transportation infrastructure. It has been since 1997 since the legislature addressed the serious revenue... - Scranton Times

December 18
A model for how transportation work creates jobs, economy
When the state transportation bill was passed recently, there was lip service paid to the job retention and expansion that can be fueled by road and bridge improvements. Last week an example of how that footnote can come to life was illustrated in a bridge project in New York State.... - Williamsport Sun-Gazette

More than 90 area bridges eligible for replacement under PennDOT program
Ninety-two of Northeast Pennsylvania's structurally deficient bridges are eligible to be rebuilt starting in 2015 under the state Department of Transportation's Rapid Bridge Replacement Project. Read the list HERE Gov. Tom Corbett approved the replacement program in 2012. The $2.3... - Scranton Times

What does new transportation bill mean for Clinton?
LOCK HAVEN - Local transportation officials gathered at the Clinton County Economic Partnership office Tuesday to talk strategy and establish priorities for local road and bridge repairs and improvements. If the large attendance was any indication, the local interest in setting... - Lock Haven Express

December 17
County airport, railroads to benefit from Pa. transportation funds
More than one-fourth of the $26.1 million in grants the state Transportation Commission approved recently will go toward road and aviation projects affecting Washington County. The commission Thursday OK'd $6.7 million in funding for work at Washington County Airport and for two rail projects serving Washington and... - Washington Observer-Reporter

December 16
Area bridges are on replacement list
The state's $2.4 billion transportation funding law will enable the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to use its Rapid Bridge Replacement Project on at least 200 more bridges than originally planned. Among the 998 bridges eligible for replacement are eight in Luzerne County,... - Wilkes-Barre Times Leader

Linking of county transit systems still being studied
The jury is still out on whether transit regionalization is the way to go. Warren County is part of a five-county area, along with Forest, Crawford, Venango and Clarion counties, that is currently part of a regionalization study at the behest of Gov. Tom Corbett.... - Warren Times Observer
December 15
New transportation law poised to pump millions into municipalities for local roads
An additional $474,848 will flow into Lackawanna County municipal coffers this spring in the first year of Pennsylvania’s new transportation law, state Department of Transportation estimates show. Five years in, Lackawanna County municipalities will collectively gain... - Scranton Times

Transit authority has big plans for bill’s expected funds
The landmark transportation bill that’s expected to pump billions of dollars into repairing and maintaining Pennsylvania's roads and bridges likely will help transform the Butler Transit Authority, its executive director said. “This is all part of the grand plan to help Butler County residents... - Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

December 14
County airport, railroads to receive grants
The state's Transportation Commission approved a $26.1 million investment in rail freight and aviation projects Thursday. The grants include $2.6 million for the Washington County Airport to construct a taxi lane and apron, as well as prepare a hangar site and construct a hangar.... - Washington Observer-Reporter

December 13
Transportation bill is 'light at the end of the tunnel' for funding woes
WAYNESBURG -- State officials, citing federal shortfalls and indecision in the nation's capital, are hailing a new transportation bill as the fix to maintaining Pennsylvania's infrastructure -- especially in the southwestern region where roads have taken a heavy beating due to the recent expansion... - Waynesburg Greene County Messenger

Pa. awards $26.1M in grants to airports, freight rail companies
Grants for improvements to and maintenance of facilities as well as business expansion were awarded to 13 railway operators/owners and 10 airports in Pennsylvania, PennDOT announced. In total, $10 million was awarded in aviation grants and $25.8 million in rail freight grants by the... - Pottstown Mercury

List of eligible bridges for replacement released
The state’s $2.4 billion transportation funding bill will enable the state Department of Transportation to use its Rapid Bridge Replacement Project on at least 200 more bridges than originally planned. Among the 998 bridges eligible for replacement are eight in Luzerne County,... - Wilkes-Barre Times Leader

Maintenance projects coming first in Montgomery County
NORRISTOWN — The Pennsylvania transportation bill recently signed by Gov. Tom Corbett funds a number of short- and long-term projects in Montgomery County, with maintenance projects getting top priority, the county Planning Commission learned Wednesday. Locally, a $15.5 million project on highway restoration on the I-76... - Lansdale Reporter

December 12
Checkered flag for transportation bill
Doing what is right often times means doing what is not easy. Enacting a comprehensive transportation infrastructure funding plan for Pennsylvania was definitely not easy, but there is no doubt it was the right thing to do, first and foremost for the safety of our citizens; from the mom... - Bloomsburg Press Enterprise

Transportation bill will increase local road revenue
Transportation bill will increase local road revenue But prices at the gas pump will increase, too By
Prices at the pump will go up soon as the new fuel tax goes into effect, but at least a little of the money will be coming back to local... - Clarion News

Transportation law’s impact unknown
MERCER COUNTY — Although it’s clear Pennsylvania public transportation agencies will be getting more money under a recently passed law that will increase gas taxes and other vehicle-related fees, agencies are still waiting for details. Agencies want to know how much they might get, when they might get it and... - Sharon Herald

Ultimate verdict on road bill years away
There has been expected criticism of the state’s recently passed transportation bill. Transportation Secretary Barry Schoch said he expected that, given that the bill's foundation is billions of dollars in higher fees and wholesale tax increases, many of which will ultimately show up in the gas pump price.... - Williamsport Sun-Gazette

December 11
Likely $2.3B influx puts PennDOT big-ticket road projects in play
A $22 million bridge project in Beaver County that crews will finish in spring remains an anomaly. When construction began three years ago on the Veterans Memorial Bridge across the Beaver River, PennDOT officials said it was Pennsylvania's only major project to build a bridge where one hadn't existed. It will connect... - Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

Area transportation study reports increased ridership, looks to the future
The Williamsport Area Transportation Study met Tuesday morning for a technical committee public meeting, and the message from everyone involved seemed to be the same: the future is bright for all things transportation. “Ridership has never been higher,” said Kevin Kilpatrick, planning manager... - Williamsport Sun-Gazette

December 10
Officials say programs are making Pennsylvania roads much safer
After nine years of high-visibility traffic enforcement and highway education programs such as Operation Safe Holiday, Pennsylvania State Police and PennDOT highway safety officials said such efforts may finally be making roads safer in Southwestern Pennsylvania.... - Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

Three bridges to reopen this week
DUNMORE — The state Department of Transportation has announced the planned opening of three bridges in the region this week. On Tuesday, the Station Hill Road Bridge in Nicholson will reopen at 1 p.m. On Wednesday, the Linden Street Bridge in Scranton will open at 1 and on... - Wilkes-Barre Times Leader

Indiana County's road funding to increase
Indiana County’s 38 municipalities are projected to receive a collective increase of nearly $2.5 million in state funding over the next five years for local road construction and maintenance programs, according to state Sen. Don White, R-Indiana, and state Reps. Dave Reed, Jeff Pyle... - Indiana Gazette

State money will create new trail construction from Moon into Coraopolis
MOON TWP. -- A bicycle and pedestrian path will receive more than $300,000 through a state grant for a project in the township. The Montour Trail system has been seeking to establish 46 miles of rail-trail from Moon Township to Clairton, and the grant money will help... - Beaver County Times

December 5
Smaller transit service funds intact under new transportation plan
Under the newly passed Pennsylvania transportation plan, smaller transit services in Allegheny County will get dedicated funding to avoid cuts, PennDOT officials said on Wednesday. The law, which is expected to raise $2.3 billion annually from increased vehicle-related fees and gasoline taxes by the fifth year, will fund... - Pittsburgh Tribune-Review
Aging bridges, maintenance, congestion relief are among transportation's top priorities, PennDOT secretary says
State Transportation Secretary Barry Schoch said Wednesday Pennsylvania's well-documented backlog of aging bridges and needed road repairs will benefit from the first year of enhanced funding for transportation. P filament road work genericView full size Signs like this could be more... - Harrisburg Patriot-News

December 4
Infrastructure can no longer be neglected
Thank you to state Sen. Stewart Greenleaf and state Rep. Thomas Murt for their courage, wisdom and support of the transportation bill recently passed through the Legislature. It is critically important for the public to grasp just how dire the collective condition of our roads and bridges in the commonwealth has... - Levittown Intelligencer

Faces in the News: David W. Kilmer, executive director, BARTA and Red Rose Transit Authority
Why he's in the news: Kilmer, director of Lancaster County’s Red Rose Transit Authority, is also leading BARTA for at least the next five months as part of a shared-management agreement between the agencies. The move came as the state is encouraging transit agencies to consolidate or work... - Reading Eagle

Our View: Erie gains from transportation law
Pennsylvania’s new transportation bill, which Gov. Tom Corbett signed on Nov. 25, comes with some pain for motorists, starting at the gas pump. To finance the transportation plan, the state Legislature approved an increase in the oil company franchise tax rate that will be passed on to... - Erie Times-News

State highway bill bolsters Thruway, Route 220 corridor
Gov. Tom Corbett put his signature on a $2.3 billion transportation bill this past week, the final step toward the most ambitious road and bridge improvement plan in Pennsylvania in decades. For our region, the House and Senate approvals and Corbett's thumbs up... - Williamsport Sun-Gazette

Pennsylvanians will see up front benefits from transportation funding law: William Adolph
By William F. Adolph The recently adopted transportation funding package was a critically needed and long overdue investment in our state's transportation network. The decision to adopt the funding package was not easy nor was it a politically expedient decision, but it was a decision to govern and one that will yield... - Harrisburg Patriot-News

The transportation vote was a victory for Pa.
The citizens of Pennsylvania should be happy that pragmatism won over ideology with the recent passage of HB1060, which is the most significant transportation funding bill to be passed in the state in decades. The governor and legislators who came together in a bipartisan effort to... - Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

December 3
Our View: It's time to fix those bridges
Pennsylvania finally has its new transportation bill, now it's time to fix the bridges. The bill approved last month raises at least an extra $2.3 billion annually over the next five years to build and repair roads and bridges and underwrite mass transit systems.... - Carlisle Sentinel

December 2
Most local lawmakers voted for final transportation bill
The majority of the area's local legislators voted for the final transportation bill that became law Monday, saying the dire need of Pennsylvania's bridges and roads outweighs anything else. Those opposing argued the $2.3 billion the legislation raises over five... - WILL
Transportation bill funds 62 more projects in Lycoming County
The state transportation bill Gov. Tom Corbett signed into law Monday will have a significant impact on highways, bridges and roads locally, funding an additional 62 transportation projects in Lycoming County valued at $113 million, said county Transportation Planner Mark Murawski. - WILL

Transportation funding in gear
When Gov. Tom Corbett signed a new transportation bill into law last Monday, it brought an end to years of contentious debate and indecision on ways to maintain the state's thousands of miles of distressed highways and crumbling bridges. It also gave hope in many areas that long-awaited projects, like Route 322... - Altoona Mirror

December 1
Officials will review what $2.3 billion transportation plan means to Lehigh Valley
Officials with the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study said last week they will take part in a session with state officials in the coming weeks to learn the ins and outs of the massive new transportation act. The law, which was formally approved Monday by Gov. Tom Corbett in a series... - Easton Express-Times

November 27
State Sen. Jake Corman praises transportation bill, says part of U.S. 322 project could begin in 2014
State Sen. Jake Corman said everything in state government is an investment. He looks at the $2.3 billion transportation bill the same way, which likely will provide funding to major Centre County transportation projects such as U.S. Route 322 and the Waddle Road interchange with Interstate 99.... - State College Centre Daily Times

State commits $558 million to upstate Route 15 project
SHAMOKIN DAM — Four decades after it was first proposed it appears Central Susquehanna Valley Thruway finally will be built. State Transportation Secretary Barry J. Schoch Tuesday said the Corbett Administration will allocate approximately $558 million to complete the... - Harrisburg Patriot-News

Armstrong County may gain $2.1M for bridge, road repairs
Transportation reform across Pennsylvania could provide funding for major infrastructure repairs in Armstrong County through 2018. State lawmakers forecasted the new transportation bill could pump an additional $2.1 million in liquid fuels funding into Armstrong County... - Pittsburgh Tribune-Review