



ACEC/PA

American Council of Engineering Companies
of Pennsylvania

January 30, 2008

The Honorable Mary Peters
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
400 7th St., SW
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Peters:

As you are well aware, the serious state of disrepair of Pennsylvania's highway and bridge infrastructure has been well documented. The transportation infrastructure problems and funding crisis in Pennsylvania has been extensively studied and quantified over the past 3 years by organizations including: *Pennsylvania Economy League*, *Associated Pennsylvania Contractors*, and *American Society of Civil Engineers*. In November 2006, the *Pennsylvania Funding and Reform Commission* (established by Executive Order from Governor Rendell) confirmed Pennsylvania's public transportation and highway/bridge systems are in crisis both in terms of inadequate funding as well as decaying conditions. The funding crisis must be addressed before the condition of our system further deteriorates.

Several options to increase transportation funding in Pennsylvania were presented and debated. The Pennsylvania General Assembly, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, and Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission worked diligently to agree on a solution to significantly increase transportation funding. The solution, HB 1590, was signed into law as Act 44 on July 18, 2007. A major component of Act 44 is the conversion of Interstate 80 to a toll road under the Interstate System Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Pilot Program.

On behalf of our 133 member firms, the American Consulting Engineers Council of Pennsylvania (ACEC/PA) strongly supports Act 44 including the tolling of Interstate 80. We urge the FHWA to approve PennDOT's application to convert I-80 to a toll road.

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These are very challenging times for our industry, as will the years to come. Solutions used to solve a funding crisis in the past are not viable in this era. Creative and innovative solutions such as Act 44 are needed to solve current and future funding crisis. Please take our comments and position under consideration as you review the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission and PennDOT's application to convert I-80 to a toll road under Act 44.

Please contact ACEC/PA if you wish to speak with us directly regarding this issue

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew J. Hilt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Andrew J. Hilt
ACEC/PA
Executive Vice President

cc: The Honorable Edward G. Rendell, Governor of Pennsylvania
Members of the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation