

Governor Visits Area To Highlight Transportation Funding Crisis

On Wednesday, August 4, Governor Rendell visited Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties as part of his Fund PA Transportation Fund Now tour. The purpose of the tour is to highlight projects that should be done, but have to be deferred due to insufficient transportation funding.

In Lackawanna County, the Governor visited the Green Ridge Street Bridge in Scranton. The bridge was built in 1946 and carries 14,000 vehicles per day. \$6 million is needed to repair the structure and remove it from the Structurally-Deficient (SD) list.

In Luzerne County, the Governor visited the PA 309 (North Crossvalley Expressway) bridge that spans the Susquehanna River and River Road in Plains Township. This bridge was built in 1976 and carries 50,815 vehicles per day. \$12.5 million is needed to bring this bridge up to today's standards.

The Governor called a special session of the legislature in May to address the dire transportation funding situation. "I've repeatedly called on the General Assembly to set aside partisanship and act on transportation funding solutions that will not just shore up Penn-



Representative Ken Smith and Governor Rendell on the Green Ridge Street Bridge.

sylvania's crumbling infrastructure, but allow for real improvement in the years ahead," the Governor said.

In May, the state Transportation Advisory Commission issued a report which estimated that Pennsylvania is short \$3.5 billion a year just to maintain the existing transportation roadway and bridge network.

The Governor went on to say, "The bottom line is that time is running out to save Pennsylvania's roads, bridges, and transit systems. Pennsylvania's future, from job growth to getting our kids to school to car-



Representative Mike Carroll and Governor Rendell at the PA 309 Bridge

ing for our older residents, depends on taking courageous steps now to address this crisis."

In the Lackawanna/Luzerne MPO region, there are 172 SD bridges and 192 miles in poor condition. Statewide, there are 10,000 miles of roadway in need of repair, 7,000 of which are classified as being in poor condition, and 5,646 SD bridges - the highest in the nation.

For more information on the funding crisis, visit www.FundPATransportationNow.com.

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