

Message points for letters to the editor regarding highway funding  
Fall 2019

- Act 89 did not solve the entire funding problem. Transportation Funding Advisory Commission said PA's funding gap was actually \$3.5 billion annually; Act 89 only raised \$2.3 billion.
- PA residents were promised that Act 89 money would be used to improve bridges and highways, relieve congestion and improve safety. Instead, a growing amount has been diverted, mostly for State Police, and now REAL ID.
- Despite gradual reduction in the highway funds diverted from Motor License Fund for other uses, still nearly \$740 million in highway money being diverted. Plus, Commonwealth now diverting \$148 million more over six year for REAL ID program. REAL ID has nothing to do with highways – not even highway safety.
- State Police and REAL ID need to be funded, but Motor License Fund is for highways.
- Since 2001, \$9 billion diverted from MLF.
- Amount diverted this year alone would have resurfaced 4,000 lane miles of roadway, or built and maintained 500 bridges for the next 25 years.
- Gasoline is approaching \$3 per gallon, but gas tax rates have not changed. PA gas tax = 58 cents per gallon, but equivalent of 12 cents per gallon is being diverted to State Police operations. Amount diverted to REAL ID = 2.3 cents per gallon.
- Gas taxes, license and registration fees SHOULD be for highways. Put it all there, and find other sources for State Police and Real ID.
- If we used ALL of MLF for highways, we would have full funding for highways, equivalent of 12 cents/gallon, but without raising taxes.
- Public transportation and Turnpike also require funding solutions; all part of integrated, multimodal transportation system.
- Alternative vehicles also need to be addressed; they are not paying fair share for wear and tear on the roads. Not fair to those who pay for wear and tear through gas taxes.
- Federal government should also be part of funding solution, but only lots of talk and no action. States need to take matters into own hands.