

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 95

Session of
1983

INTRODUCED BY RYAN, MAY 10, 1983

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, MAY 11, 1983

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission to proceed with the
2 design and engineering work necessary to widen a portion of
3 the turnpike located between the Northeastern Extension and
4 the Philadelphia Interchange.

5 WHEREAS, The traffic on the Pennsylvania Turnpike from the
6 Valley Forge Interchange to the Philadelphia Interchange has
7 grown steadily over the past 20 years and has exceeded all
8 previous growth forecasts; and

9 WHEREAS, The widening of this portion of the turnpike to six
10 lanes was authorized by the General Assembly by Act 1978-331,
11 amending Act 1959-322, to be financed through the sale of bonds
12 by the commission; and

13 WHEREAS, The design and engineering portions of said widening
14 project will require a significant length of time to complete;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The Economic Development Council of Northeast
17 Pennsylvania adopted a resolution on December 16, 1982,
18 expressing support and cooperation for the proposed construction

1 of a turnpike interchange at Keyser Valley and recommending the
2 expeditious completion thereof; and

3 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's
4 representative to the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission has at
5 each of the past three meetings introduced a resolution to use
6 reserve revenues so that engineering design could begin
7 immediately, since engineering design is in fact the critical
8 activity determining when construction work can begin; and

9 WHEREAS, Rather than proceeding, the other Turnpike
10 Commission members have decided to hold up the project unless
11 they can seek premature bond financing for a project that will
12 not be ready to break ground for another year; and

13 WHEREAS, The Turnpike Commission currently lacks the
14 borrowing capacity to authorize a bond issue now in any event,
15 and that the commission will not be in a position to enter the
16 bond market until January or February 1984; and

17 WHEREAS, The project would create critically needed jobs; and

18 WHEREAS, The State's economy would be stimulated and
19 unemployment reduced by the project; therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the commission conduct the required
21 engineering feasibility study of alternate access at or near the
22 Scranton Interchange; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly urge the Pennsylvania
24 Turnpike Commission to authorize the appropriate commission
25 personnel, contractors and consultants to undertake the design
26 and engineering work necessary for the widening of the turnpike
27 from four to six lanes from the junction of the Northeastern
28 Extension of the Philadelphia Interchange as authorized by Act
29 1978-331, amending Act 1959-322, and more completely described
30 in the commission's Amended Capital Improvement Program, Volume

1 II, dated January 1978, and to further authorize the undertaking
2 of the necessary traffic flow analyses to allow the coordination
3 of the design of the proposed widening with the proposed
4 interchanges of the Pennsylvania Turnpike with Interstate 476
5 and Interstate 95.