

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 366 Session of
1994

INTRODUCED BY HARLEY, FICHTER, DENT, CORNELL, LAUB, HERSHEY,
MUNDY, GERLACH, WOGAN, RUBLEY, STEELMAN, HENNESSEY, BUNT,
ADOLPH, DRUCE, RICHARDSON, RAYMOND AND YOUNGBLOOD,
SEPTEMBER 26, 1994

ADOPTED, SEPTEMBER 26, 1994

A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting the Department of Transportation to conduct a review
2 of the ramp design, signage and highway alignment at the
3 intersection ramps of I-76 and I-476 in West Conshohocken
4 Borough.

5 WHEREAS, There have been at least six major tractor-trailer
6 accidents at the ramps connecting the Schuylkill Expressway (I-
7 76) to the Blue Route (I-476) in West Conshohocken Borough since
8 December 1991; and

9 WHEREAS, Fire company officials and truck owners are
10 concerned that the ramp designs may not be sufficient to ensure
11 the safety of motorists at the intersection of I-76 and I-476;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Five accidents took place on the ramp connecting I-
14 76 to I-476 southbound; and

15 WHEREAS, Two accidents on the ramps to I-476 resulted in the
16 death of the drivers; and

17 WHEREAS, According to figures supplied by the Delaware Valley
18 Regional Planning Commission, between 800 and 1,000 heavy trucks

1 are among the 10,900 vehicles daily using the eastbound I-76
2 ramp, compared to between 370 and 500 heavy trucks per day on
3 the westbound ramp; and

4 WHEREAS, The most recent accident required a 17-hour cleanup
5 of a hazardous materials spill by 150 firefighters and police.
6 This caused the ramp to be closed for the entire morning rush
7 hour; and

8 WHEREAS, One accident involved an 8,500-gallon gasoline
9 tanker and led to an explosion that killed the driver, closed I-
10 76, threatened the structural integrity of the ramp and caused
11 gridlock on local roads; and

12 WHEREAS, Officials in West Conshohocken say a preponderance
13 of emergency calls within the borough is attributable to
14 accidents and incidents on these two State highways; and

15 WHEREAS, Safe roads must be a priority in this Commonwealth,
16 and travelers, truckers and local residents and communities may
17 have been put at very dangerous risk by engineering at this
18 interchange; and

19 WHEREAS, Recent accidents have caused damage to the ramps
20 estimated at \$175,000; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the Department of Transportation conduct an
22 immediate and thorough review of the ramp design, signage and
23 highway alignment at northbound and southbound ramps from I-76
24 onto I-476. Results of this report shall be made available to
25 members of the General Assembly.