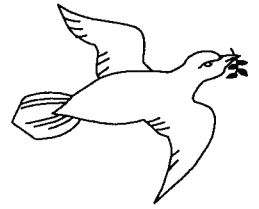




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Good day, ladies and gentlemen.

I am here to ask Rep. Joseph Markosek and Rep. Richard Geist, for leadership in solving this transportation funding crisis.

I am Jonathan Robison, of 154 N. Bellefield Ave., Pittsburgh 15213. I am president of the Allegheny County Transit Council (ACTC), the legislatively mandated citizen advisory body for the Port Authority of Allegheny County.

You are well aware, I trust, how vital public transportation is to the environment, energy conservation, the economy, the region, and ordinary people's lives. Others are sharing specifics on these needs. You know that the problems of the Port Authority, PAT, are shared by all 38 transit operators in the state. You know that PennDOT lacks necessary funds to maintain and repair our roads and bridges. You have heard at length about all the changes that PAT has made, to make the transit system more efficient and effective. PAT will continue to make improvements, and the ACTC will continue to support these efforts. But simple arithmetic will tell you that all possible improvements cannot resolve the \$50 million hole in PAT's budget.

I don't have a simple solution in my pocket. As I said, I am here to ask you for leadership in solving our transportation funding crisis.

I have heard perhaps fifteen solutions, and I am sure that you have heard more.

What is needed is leadership to negotiate a consensus around one measure, or a package of measures, and put together the votes for legislative enactment. Support by citizens and community groups will be needed, and there we must provide leadership.

Why do I ask *you* for this legislative leadership? I believe that you have the knowledge, the understanding of the situation, the vision, and the connections to assemble a solution and get it enacted. And, we're here together. Please start here and now. Thank you.