

# Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs



*Testimony on*

*Senate Bill 1*

*House Transportation Committee  
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*Ron Grutza  
Assistant Director of Government Affairs*

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2941 North Front Street, Harrisburg PA 17110  
(717) 236-9526 x1044 - - - Fax (717) 236-8289  
[www.boroughs.org](http://www.boroughs.org)

Good Morning, Chairman Hess, Chairman McGeehan, and members of the House Transportation Committee. The Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs is a nonprofit, nonpartisan local government association comprised of 958 boroughs and more than 10,000 elected and appointed borough officials. For the past 100 years, PSAB has helped to shape the laws that govern boroughs and municipal officials across the state. We look forward to the next century of service to our members and working with the General Assembly on a host of important issues.

One thing that we can all agree on is that Pennsylvania's infrastructure network – our roads, bridges and mass transit – have been significantly underfunded for more than three decades. Right now, we have a funding crisis as well as an infrastructure crisis facing all of us – and our local governments. The Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs is pleased that the members of both the House and Senate and the Administration have made enacting a transportation funding plan a priority this session. Senator Rafferty's bill takes a giant leap forward in ensuring we can have a realistic funding plan in place that meets our transportation needs.

Pennsylvania's roads and bridges, unfortunately, have the distinction of being some of the worst in the nation. We have more than 4,400 structurally deficient bridges – **the worst** in the nation. Moreover, 23 percent of the 44,000 miles of state roads rate in poor condition. Senate Bill 1 goes even further in providing much-needed dollars to restore Pennsylvania's infrastructure.

Our boroughs are concerned about the cost of transportation upgrades versus the reality of providing core services to their communities – public safety, transit, commerce, business development, job creation and community development. Our roads and bridges, as well as our mass transit systems, play a vital role in their economic sustainability. The consequences of not enacting a transportation funding plan will attack our quality-of-life, environment and economy. Our local governments will not be able to start new projects and will fall further behind on current projects and routine maintenance on their roadways.

Senate Bill 1 would infuse \$1.9 billion or more for critical bridge and road enhancements and another \$510 million for mass transit upgrades. These upgrades are crucial so that we can assure that people have the needed transportation to get to work and other activities that impact our economy, livelihood and tourism industry. Our economic vitality is at stake.

In closing, Senate Bill 1 takes the steps necessary to ensure that all levels of government have the resources they need to make long-term, strategic investments. We believe this bill treats the entire transportation network as a whole, and ensures the 77,000 miles of local roads are a critical partner in that network. The Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs fully supports Senate Bill 1 and urges you to pass this monumental plan.

Thank you Chairman Hess, Chairman McGeehan, members of the committee, and the staff for your time and I'd be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.