

Pennsylvania Kicks the Can Down the Road

"So tell me what you want, what you really, really want."

1997. What were you doing in 1997?

How old were your kids? What car did you drive?

Bob Carlisle's "Butterfly Kisses" was the #12 hit.

The **Spice Girls** had 3 top hits in 1997.

Basic Cable TV was \$29.52 per month.

A postage stamp was 29¢.

Republican **Tom Ridge** was Governor.

Three Rivers Stadium existed.

1997 Construction Cost Index: 5825. August, 2012 CCI was 9351, **up 60%**.

The PA Liquid Fuel tax, to maintain our roads, was 12¢ per gallon. It still is.

In 2012, the Oil Franchise Tax also remains at 19.2¢ per gallon.



1997 Governor Tom Ridge

In 2012, 17% of Pennsylvania bridges are structurally deficient, and 800 must be replaced, and all average over 50 years old. About 20% of the workers in the Pennsylvania Construction industry are unemployed, with 3,300 less in August.

In 1997 the Pennsylvania unemployment rate was about 5.1%.

After the inflation adjustment to the tax, the rate declined to about 4.2%.

In August, 2012 it was 8.1%.

Following a nearly decade-long effort in crafting and advocating legislation designed to explore and create public-private partnerships (P3) in transportation, this summer Gov. Tom Corbett signed House Bill 3 into law, making it Act 88 of 2012. It funded nothing.

"This act opens a new chapter in the way Pennsylvania can fund projects designed to repair and replace our structurally deficient roads and bridges with the cooperation, financial resources and efficiencies of the private sector." Retiring Rep. Rick Geist said "It is an important step in rebuilding our infrastructure." Is it?

"We can and must continue to move forward and do more for Pennsylvania." Geist said. See page 4 for their votes.

But the Pennsylvania legislature has enacted no adjustment for inflation to our transportation revenue since 1997. In 1997, the Legislative Branch enacted only 1/3 of what the Executive Branch advised was necessary just to just keep even with maintenance. 15 years of procrastination.



"We Don't Do Public Works!"

At a recent gathering of supporters, the House Majority Leader indicated that action on transportation funding in Pennsylvania is dependent upon the governor, and that no action is likely until at least Spring of 2013. The House Majority Leader only controls which funding legislation may get to the floor of the House for consideration. To his assembled supporters he said: "We don't do public works!"

Pennsylvania's House Majority Leader, who after 12 years, has lifetime income, was not yet in office in 1997, and his children weren't yet born. And you?



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Newest Failure to Act Economic Study: Ports

This month, ASCE issued the economic reports that takes a closer look at the economic opportunity that is linked to port infrastructure investment. The study clearly show the economic consequences if we fail to act, and the economic gains that could be made by 2020 and 2040 to GDP, personal income, and jobs if we choose as Americans to invest in our communities.



Aging infrastructure and congestion at our nation's marine ports, inland waterways, and airports makes shipping more expensive, increasing the cost of goods. These costs reverberate through the economy, causing exports and GDP to fall, ultimately threatening more than 1 million U.S. jobs and causing a drop in personal income. With adequate investment, we can ensure that America remains competitive in the global marketplace, keep domestic business running efficiently, and maintain a lower cost of goods for consumers.

Key Findings:

Costs attributable to airport congestion will rise from \$24 billion in 2012 to \$34 billion in 2020. With additional investment of a total of \$18.9 billion by 2020, plus the development of NextGen, the U.S. can protect:

- \$54 billion in exports
- \$313 billion in GDP
- 350,000 jobs
- \$361 billion in personal income, or **\$320 per year per household**.

Costs attributable to delays in the nation's inland waterways system were \$33 billion in 2010, and it is expected to increase to nearly \$49 billion by 2020. With an additional investment of \$15.8 billion between now and 2020, the U.S. can protect:

- \$270 billion in U.S. exports
- \$697 billion in GDP
- 738,000 jobs annually
- \$872 billion in personal income, or **\$770 per year per household**.

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How Your ASCE Pittsburgh Section Elected State Lawmakers Voted on House Bill #3, Now Act 88, of 2012

House District

1: Patrick Harkins **nay**
2: Florindo Fabrizio **nay**
3: John Hornaman **nay**
4: Curtis Sonney **yea**
5: John Evans **----**
6: Brad Roae **yea**
8: Richard Stevenson **yea**
9: Chris Sainato **nay**
10: Jaret Gibbons **yea**
11: Brian Ellis **yea**
12: Daryl Metclfe **yea**
14: Jim Marshall **yea**
17: Michele Brooks **yea**
19: Jake Wheatley **nay**
20: Adam Ravenstahl **yea**
21: Dom Costa **yea**
22: Martin Schmotzer **nay**
23: Dan Frankel **yea**
24: Joseph Preston **nay**
25: Joseph Markosek **yea**
27: Dan Deasy **yea**
28: Mike Turzai **yea**
30: Randy Vulakovich **yea**
32: Anthony DeLuca **yea**
33: Frank Dermody **nay**
34: Paul Costa **yea**

35: Marc Gergely **yea**
36: Harry Readshaw **yea**
38: Bill Kortz **yea**
40: John Maher **nay**
42: Matthew Smith **nay**
44: Mark Mustio **yea**
45: Nick Kotik **nay**
46: Jesse White **nay**
48: Brandon Neuman **nay**
49: Peter Daley **nay**
50: Robert Robbins **----**
51: Tim Mahoney **nay**
52: Deberah Kula **nay**
54: Eli Evankovich **yea**
55: Joseph Petrarca **yea**
56: George Dunbar **yea**
57: Timothy Krieger **yea**
58: Ted Harhai **nay**
59: Mike Reese **yea**
60: Jeffrey Pyle **yea**
62: David Reed **yea**
63: Donna Oberlander **yea**
64: Scott Hutchinson **yea**
65: Kathy Rapp **yea**
66: George Dunbar **yea**
67: Martin Causer **yea**
69: Carl Metzgar **yea**
71: Brian Barbin **nay**

72: Frank Burns **nay**
73: Gary Haluska **----**
74: Bud George **----**
75: Matt Gabler **nay**
78: Dick Hess **yea**
79: Richard Geist **yea**
80: Gerry Stern **yea**
81: Mike Fleck **----**

Senate District

21: Mary Jo White **yea**
25: Joseph Scarnati **yea**
30: John Eichelberger **yea**
32: Richard Kasunic **yea**
35: John Wozniak **yea**
37: John Pippy **yea**
38: Jim Ferlo **yea**
40: **----**
41: Donald C. White **yea**
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43: Jay Costa **yea**
45: James Brewster **yea**
46: Tim Solobay **yea**
47: Elder Vogel **yea**
49: Jane Earll **yea**
50: Robert Robbins **yea**

How did your lawmaker vote?

Why did they vote as they did? Contact them to find out why. You can find them at <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/#county> and http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/member_information/contact.cfm?body=S

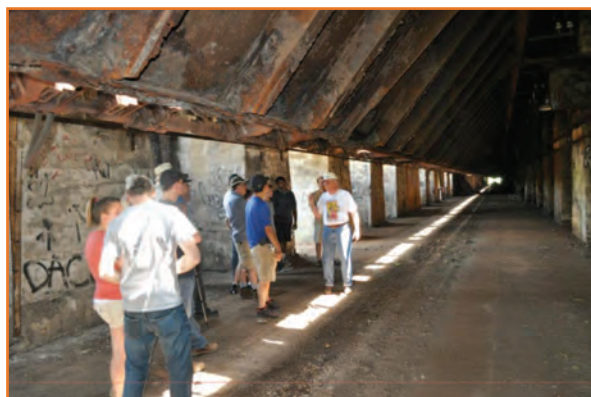
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- The new Voter ID law will be in effect Election Day, November 6.
- Does your photo ID match your voter registration exactly? e.g., given name or maiden name for middle initial. Current address. Correct spelling?
- Can't find your voter registration card to compare? Call your county election division. In Allegheny County, the number is 412-350-4510.

No Summer Vacation for the Younger Members

The Pittsburgh's Younger Members Forum was full of activity this summer. From kayak tours to Pirates games, the ASCE Younger Member Forum represented well at four events. First they hit the river, on July 12th, with a guided tour from Venture Outdoors. They headed up the Allegheny River to get an up-close look at ten bridges, Route 28 construction, and one ship wreck. The group of sixteen YMF members started the tour under the Clemente Bridge and headed upstream, around Washington's Landing, and then back down to PNC Park. It was a great night for kayaking and the group thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



Tapping into history, the YMF took a summer excursion to Rankin, PA for a guided tour of Carrie Furnace. Carrie Furnace is comprised of former blast furnaces No. 6 and 7 which were once part of the U.S. Steel Corp.'s Homestead Steel Works. Currently a National Historic Landmark, Carrie Furnace is preserved and managed by Rivers of Steel Heritage Corporation. Rivers of Steel provided twenty-four ASCE members with a private 'hard-hat' tour of Carrie Furnace giving members a history lesson of an era gone by, stoking our imagination of the people and infrastructure that built Pittsburgh.

YMF held their annual summer camping trip in late July in Ohiopyle, PA which also served as the inaugural ASCE Region Two group activity. This trip had the distinction of being the highest attended camping trip with a total of thirty-two younger members. Although the majority of participants were younger members and students from the Pittsburgh Section, the YMF attracted attendees from across the state. Three attendees were from the Philadelphia Section, two from the Central PA Branch, and one from the New Jersey Section. In addition to all the camping traditions, the YMF organized two group activities. A Friday private tour of three Frank Lloyd Wright inspired homes at the newly founded Polymath Park and Saturday the YMF spent the day boating/tubing on the Yough Reservoir. Increased attendance, lots of laughter, positive feedback and attendees already wanting to sign up for next year helped prove the event was a big success.



Rounding out the summer and kicking off the fall, the annual Pirate Tailgate and Game was held on September 7th. The tailgate started with three sizzling grills feeding sixty-two members, students, and guests.. It was a great night for making new connections between students and members while watching a baseball game with a fellow Civil Engineer. The YMF proved to have a great night despite the Pirates losing to the Cubs. With all of the YMF undertakings, it truly shows that ASCE and civil engineering never has a summer vacation.

To grow professionally with the Younger Members, contact Jim Radion, at Gannett-Fleming, jradion@gfnet.com, or Angela Mayer, at KU Resources, AMayer@kuresources.com

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How and Where to Apply for an Absentee Ballot

Qualifications for Absentee Voters

To vote by Absentee Ballot, you must be a registered voter, and You must also either be:

- Unable to attend your polling place due to illness or physical disability
- Absent from your municipality of residence on the day of the election during the time the polls are open due to duties, occupation or business; or
- Not attending your polling place on the day of the election during the time the polls are open due to your observance of a religious holiday.

How to Apply for an Absentee Ballot

Applications for Absentee Ballots are available at your County Elections Division. In Allegheny County it is Room 601 of the County Office Building, Pittsburgh, Pa., 15219 (412) 350-4520. Regular business hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

You may also obtain an application from the [Pennsylvania Department of State's Web site](http://www.pennsylvania.gov/elections). There you may download the application. In Allegheny County, send the form to:

Attn: Absentee Voting Section
Division of Elections
Allegheny County
542 Forbes Ave., Room 601
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-2953

Absentee Ballot

You may also apply for an absentee ballot by means of a signed written request submitted to the Elections Division, containing the following information: name of voter; residence address; date of birth; reason for voting by absentee; address to which ballot is to be mailed; and signature of applicant. (Voters who wish to vote by absentee ballot due to illness or physical disability must also provide the exact nature of their disability and the name, office address and office telephone of their attending physician.)

Upon receipt and approval of the completed Absentee Ballot application, the Elections Division will then mail the Absentee Ballot as soon as it is printed.

For fastest results, personally visit the Elections Division and complete an application. As soon as the ballots are printed, if you are properly registered, you will be handed an absentee ballot to vote right there. It takes only a few minutes.

Deadline to Apply for an Absentee Ballot is October 30, 2012

Completed Absentee Ballot applications **must be received** in the office of the Elections Division **no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Tuesday prior to the Primary or Election.**

Secure, complete and return your Absentee Ballot application as soon as possible. This will provide sufficient mailing time for us to receive and process your application, mail your ballot, and allow you to vote and return your ballot by the deadline.

Deadline for Return of Your Voted Absentee Ballot is November 2

All voted Absentee Ballots **must be received** in the office of the Elections Division **no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Friday prior to the prior Primary or Election** to be counted.

Important Instructions for Returning your Voted Absentee Ballot

All voted Absentee Ballots **must be sent by mail or express or overnight mail (which includes DHL, FedEx and UPS, for example) or delivered IN PERSON by the absentee ballot voter. Voted absentee ballots returned by any other means will not be accepted or counted by the Elections Division.** Disabled voters may designate another person to assist in obtaining and delivering their absentee ballot. More information and the necessary form(s) or application(s) for this voting option may be obtained on the [Pennsylvania Department of State's Web site](http://www.pennsylvania.gov/elections).

Sustainability Conference Attracts More Than Engineers







PRESENT:

The 5th Annual SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE

Smart Investment in our REGION'S VALUABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

Numerous esteemed publications and professional organizations have stressed the enormity of the aging infrastructure problem in our nation. The common theme is that a dire need exists to provide engineering solutions from both a practical and financial standpoint to infrastructure that impacts our daily lives.

The Pittsburgh Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Environmental and Water Resources Institute (EWRI), Champions for Sustainability/Sustainable Pittsburgh (C4S) and Transportation and Development Institute (T&DI) are proud to announce the Annual daylong Sustainability Conference. This year's conference will focus on three cornerstone aspects, **Locks & Dams**, **Asset Management** and **Water as a Resource** of our region's infrastructure that is in need of immediate attention.

This event will be held on The Gateway Clipper Fleets, Empress and will include a journey down the Ohio River to the Emsworth Lock and Dam.

So please join us for this daylong event. All attendees at the event will receive a certificate for 6.0 Professional Development Hours.

We look forward to your attendance!!

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Date: October 12, 2012 Time: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Location: The Gateway Clipper Fleet | Cost: Members – \$100 ⁰⁰ Non-Member – \$125 ⁰⁰ Students – \$25 ⁰⁰ | Register with Kyle Plummer at kplummer@GFNET.com or visit asce-pgh.org |
|---|---|---|

Failure to Act

Failure of our lawmakers to act to build, rebuild, restore and repair our nation's civil infrastructure will have disastrous consequences for our nation.

Read and refresh your memory on these consequences at www.asce.org/economicstudy/.

The reports discuss 1) Surface Transportation, 2) Water and Wastewater, 3) Electricity, and 4) Ports, both air and water.

Every federal and state House member wants your vote on November 6. How did they vote? What funding legislation did they introduce or sponsor? How will you vote?



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Disclaimer: The American Society of Civil Engineers and the Pittsburgh Section are not responsible for any statement made or opinion expressed in this publication. Editorials represent the official policy of the Pittsburgh Section.

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