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February 13, 2008



FEB 14 2008

Mr. James D. Ritzman, P.E.
Deputy Secretary of Planning
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 3365
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3365

RE: SR 80 Section A18 -- I-80/Route 26 Local Access Interchange
Spike Funding request by Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization

Dear Mr. Ritzman,

As noted in a letter to you dated February 4, 2008, the Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO) outlined its reasons why members of the Coordinating Committee feel it is important to include spike funding for the State Route 80 Section A18 -- Interstate 80/Route 26 Local Access Interchange in the 2009-2012 Centre County Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Although this interchange is not physically located in my district, delaying both this project and the proposed high-speed interchange connecting I-80 and I-99 poses regional and statewide threats of lost economic development opportunities, increased costs, and increased congestion and safety issues.

I share the CCMPO's concerns as stated in its letter and I am writing today in full support of the CCMPO request for spike funding. I offer my assistance and cooperation to ensure a positive response and respectfully request that approval for this funding be included in the 2009-2012 TIP. Should you have any questions or wish to speak to me personally about this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kerry A. Benninghoff".

KERRY A. BENNINGHOFF
State Representative
171st Legislative District

KAB/mar

CC: Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization ✓
Marion Township Board of Supervisors