



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF
SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

January 10, 2008



Mr. Robert A. Crum, Jr.
Planning Director
Centre Regional Planning Commission
2643 Gateway Drive, Suite #4
State College, Pennsylvania 16801

Dear Mr. Crum:

This is in response to your letter dated December 10, 2007, requesting the Secretary's "spike" funding for the Interstate 80/PA 26 Local Access Interchange project in Marion Township.

As you are aware, the Department is currently working with all Commonwealth Planning Partners in the development of regional 2009 Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) and will continue to do so until consensus can be reached on a regional and statewide level. The goal for each Planning Partner is to reach agreement on a fiscally constrained TIP that best addresses the needs of the transportation system in each respective region.

Given the level of funding available for transportation projects, tough decisions must be made as to what projects receive priority in funding and inclusion on a regional TIP. High-priced, capacity-adding projects such as the I-80/PA 26 Local Access Interchange, which has an estimated construction cost of \$43 million, must be weighed against other transportation improvements that preserve the existing infrastructure in Centre County.

At the forefront of the Department's priorities is addressing bridges across the Commonwealth. Currently, Centre County has 63 state-owned bridges that are classified as structurally deficient, and only 11 are currently programmed on the 2007 TIP. Furthermore, while the Department has made strides in addressing poor International Roughness Index (IRI) pavement on the major National Highway System routes and Interstates in Centre County, extensive needs still exist on secondary roadways.

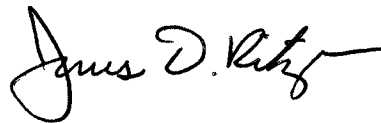
At this time, the Department is not in a position to make "spike" funding decisions for the 2009 Program. Centre County's commitment to and support for the I-80/PA 26 Local Access Interchange Project is understood and acknowledged. The Department in coordination with our Planning Partners is engaged in the difficult task of balancing transportation needs with current

Mr. Robert A. Crum, Jr.
January 10, 2008
Page 2

and projected revenues. Your letter supporting the I-80/PA 26 Local Access Interchange project funding will be given full consideration as "spike" funding decisions associated with the 2009 Program are made. Please note that priority consideration will be given to close the gap between funding and maintaining our current transportation system.

Your continued support and interest in Centre County's transportation program is very much appreciated. If you have any questions regarding the program development process, please feel free to contact Mr. Larry Shifflet of my staff at (717) 787-2862.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James D. Ritzman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

James D. Ritzman, P.E.
Deputy Secretary for Planning

cc: Honorable Jake Corman
Honorable Mike Hanna
Honorable Kerry Benninghoff
Honorable Scott Conklin