



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMMISSIONER JOE SPANIK ADDRESSES LOCAL TRANSPORTATION NEEDS IN BEAVER COUNTY AND THROUGHOUT PENNSYLVANIA

(October 7, 2015-Pittsburgh, PA)

Speaking out as a Beaver County Commissioner and the Chairman of the Community & Economic Development Committee of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania, Commissioner Joe Spanik joined a panel of elected officials from across Pennsylvania to testify as an advocate for state legislative action on a comprehensive plan for funding and administrative solutions to Pennsylvania's infrastructure and transit needs.

“As we face resource challenges at the local government level, we must look for innovative improvements in our local transportation systems. Federal funding for transportation is available and vital. However, at the state level, legislatures should demand comprehensive programming and funding by the federal government and not a series interim stop-gap measures” commented Commissioner Spanik. “I agree with CCAP’s policy which opposes using the federal gasoline excise, the state motor vehicle license fund, state liquid fuels funds or any other dedicated transit tax for any use other than its dedicated purpose. The taxpayers of Beaver County and their counterparts in the other 66 Counties of our Commonwealth deserve no less when it comes to transportation funding” continued Commissioner Spanik.

At the state level, the enactment of Act 13 and Act 89 have provided both programs and funding sources through which County governments can plan and construct transportation upgrades. State roads and bridges, public transportation, local roads and bridges, Turnpike expansion projects, multi-modal projects, County bridges, recreation and trail planning and construction are just a few examples of the progress created by legislative action. “On behalf of Beaver County and CCAP, I applaud the enactment of

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Joe Spanik
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Act 13 and Act 89 and recognize the impact they have on transportation,” continued Commissioner Spanik.

Local transportation system planning must reflect local needs. Beaver County offers a good example of such a structure. The current Beaver County Comprehensive Plan identifies a number of transportation projects or initiatives. It further identifies primary and secondary targeted economic development districts. “Transportation and County-initiated projects must first be consistent with our Comprehensive Plan in Beaver County. Our assessment of transportation projects or transportation components as part of a larger economic development, redevelopment or community development project, will take into account job creation, private matching funding, projected future tax revenues and community revitalization,” said Commissioner Spanik.

Commissioner Spanik was joined on the “Local Transportation Systems” panel by representatives from (1) Cranberry Township/State Association of Township Supervisors, (2) Fayette County/State Association of Township Supervisors and (3) the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs.

The full text of Commissioner Spanik’s remarks are attached to this document.

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