



Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters

Strength in Numbers 95,000

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LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

PA Turnpike shifts to 4-year financing plan



Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

BY ED BLAZINA

Instead of continuing to fight an uphill battle to reduce its annual \$450 million obligation to PennDOT, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission is shifting its financial priorities and will do its best to get by until that contribution decreases to \$50 million in 2023.

In interviews last week — after the commission raised tolls 6 percent, the 10th consecutive year for an increase — turnpike administrators and new commission chairwoman Leslie S. Richards said the agency is on reasonably sound financial footing and should be able to get through the next four years.

The turnpike payment to PennDOT dates back to 2007, when former Gov. Ed Rendell called for the turnpike to collect tolls on Interstate 80 and contribute \$800 million

annually to PennDOT for general transportation purposes. The federal government refused to permit I-80 tolls, but the payment continued until a transportation funding bill approved in 2013 reduced the payment to \$450 million and earmarked it for public transit.

State Auditor General Eugene DePasquale has warned that continuing rate increases will force motorists onto other roads, reducing traffic and revenue.

Turnpike CEO Mark Compton said the agency is monitoring that closely and doesn't expect a problem in the next few years unless there is a sharp increase in fuel prices. That would deter passenger vehicles from traveling and cause commercial vehicles to look for ways to cut costs

View complete article at:

<http://www.post-gazette.com/news/state/2017/07/23/Turnpike-tolls-finances-PennDOT-450-million-transit/stories/201707230106>

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Philadelphia's Soda Tax Bust

Fewer jobs, lower revenues, but a boost for beer sales.

By

The Editorial Board

Aug. 13, 2017 5:54 p.m. ET

According to an article posted in the Wall Street Journal, Mayor Kenney, City of Philadelphia said the tax would finance universal pre-K ed. The Tax Foundation reported that only 49% is going to the pre-K program and the remainder to fund government and worker benefits and other city programs.

In the article the Editorial Board references Brother Daniel Grace, Principal Officer of Teamsters Local 830 who estimates that soft-drink sales within the city are down by as much as 45%. Truck drivers earn money based in part on how many cases of soda they deliver, and he says the tax has halved their income.

The Editorial Board concludes that other cities might note that excise taxes don't repeal the laws of economics.

See Complete Article at: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/philadelphias-soda-tax-bust-1502661280>

