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## News Advisory News Advisory News Advisory

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***Stand Up for Transportation Day***

**Lehigh Valley, PA – Thursday, April 9:**

Unless reauthorized, federal transportation funding will run out on May 31. Today is National Transportation Infrastructure Day, designed to draw attention to the critical need for long-term transportation funding. Without dedicated money for infrastructure, Americans across the country will face tremendous uncertainty. Long-term funding is crucial to support the Lehigh Valley’s rapid growth. For example, the amount of freight transported through Lehigh and Northampton counties will double in 25 years.

The Greater Lehigh Valley business community is asking every resident to stand with us in asking our federal officials to address this funding crisis now. Here’s why:

“While many look at transportation as a daily necessity to get to or from work or school, the biggest issue that many often take for grant it is safety.  Imagine your child, mom, dad, husband or wife unable to be reached on time to save their life because road networks don't have the capacity or ability to allow an ambulance, police, or fire truck to reach them on time.  This may be the single most precious reason to hold transportation funding in the highest regard.  Is your life worth it?”

-Larry Wiersch, CEO, Cetronia Ambulance

“With over 300 people a day travelling to PA CareerLink Lehigh Valley to look for work, Lehigh Valley’s transportation system is integral to our workforce system.  Also, Transportation, Warehousing and Logistics is one of five industry clusters in the Lehigh Valley that are putting people to work”.

-Nancy Dischinat, Executive Director, Lehigh Valley Workforce Investment Board

“The Lehigh Valley Building Trades fight for family sustaining jobs. There is no doubt in my mind that transportation sector is the most critical sector of our economy. Transportation should be front and center in rebuilding the middle class.”

-Jim Reilley, President, Local 542

"Federal transportation funding is vital for LANTA to keep safe and reliable vehicles on the road for both our bus and paratransit systems allowing Lehigh Valley residents to get to work, school medical appointments and other quality of like mobility needs. This funding also allows us to continue to improve the quality of our services and passenger facilities" On a typical day, 55% of passengers on LANTA buses are traveling back and forth to work, representing 9,000 work commutes each day. Another 10% to 15% are going to school, whether college, high school or middle school including over 1,000 Allentown School District students each day. Over 2,000 seniors ride LANTA buses for free each day allowing them independence and the ability to age in place. Each day LANTA's paratransit system, LANtaVan, provides 2,200 trips each day, including approximately 400 trips each day to area dialysis centers.”

-Owen O’Neill, Executive Director, LANta

“Federal funding makes up 80% of the funding for the Lehigh Valley’s roads, bridges and transit.  Without a federal transportation bill we will be in an infrastructure funding crisis.  Worse than a funding crisis, the region will be unable to maintain or repair our infrastructure creating a public safety issue and adversely affecting commerce.”

-Becky A. Bradley, Executive Director, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

 “The members of the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce, the largest chamber in the state of PA, recognize the vital nature of maintaining our infrastructure – with the goal of improving it.  Without a proper transportation system—roads, freight, mass transit, air--day-to-day business will be stifled and the economy will suffer.”

-Pete Terry, Chair, Chamber’s Transportation Committee/Benchmark Civil Engineering Services

***About the Chamber:*** *The mission of The Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce is to improve the economy and quality of life in the Lehigh Valley Metropolitan Area. We accomplish this through business-to-business networking events and marketing products, affinity programs and exclusive, money saving member benefits, training programs, government affairs initiatives and public policy advocacy, and community development enterprises. With nearly 5,000 members who employ more than 200,000, the Chamber is the largest in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and in the top ten nationwide.*

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