Governor Corbett Leadership

The Keystone Transportation Funding Coalition commends Governor Tom Corbett for embracing a comprehensive transportation funding plan as one of his administration’s top priorities in his budget address in early February.

The Coalition was encouraged by his insistence that the solution must be a lasting one. His comments were in keeping with the recommendations of his Transportation Funding Advisory Commission, which would put transportation funding on track for a comprehensive solution to Pennsylvania’s transportation funding needs.

Strong support in Harrisburg

Even in today’s rancorous political atmosphere, transportation funding has bipartisan, bicameral support. We saw further evidence of that in the reaction of legislators to the Governor’s comments on the issue. Moreover, public opinion research shows that a majority of Pennsylvanians regard transportation funding as the most important issue facing the commonwealth.

Quality of Life

We look forward to working with the administration and the General Assembly to move this vital public policy issue forward, both for its near-term economic benefits as well as to create a key component for future prosperity and an improved quality of life for all residents of the commonwealth.

Coalition Membership

The Keystone Transportation Funding Coalition is a confederation of organizations with an interest in multimodal transportation funding, who support a comprehensive solution to Pennsylvania’s transportation funding needs.

Members include the highway construction industry, public transit agencies, labor unions, farm organizations, AARP, bicycle and pedestrian transportation advocates, land-use advocates, AAA, air and sea-port organizations, organizations representing local governments, chambers of commerce, travel and tourism organizations, environmental advocates, freight and passenger rail organizations and truck freight haulers.

Free Rides April 2-6 thanks to Altoona First

Altoona First Savings Bank is sponsoring free rides on all AMTRAN’s regular fixed routes April 2-6 (Monday through Friday) as part of Community Banking Week.

“Take the bus on us.”

“Altoona First does a lot to give back to the community throughout the year,” according to Gary Pfahler, President and CEO. “But this year for Community Banking Week, we wanted to do something different.”

Pfahler invites local residents to “Take the bus on us.”

Long history of service

Founded in 1927, Altoona First Savings Bank has six branches in Blair and Bedford Counties. The bank has an 85 year history of service to the area.

Community banking

“We are a mutual bank as opposed to a stock bank,” CEO Pfahler explains. “What does that mean? It means our operating philosophy is to benefit our customers and community, not our stockholders. Because we don’t have stockholders.”

“Results in local decisions for faster results. It means small businesses have a local partner that has a vested interest in their success.”

Giving back

Altoona First is a member of the Pennsylvania Association of Community Bankers and the Independent Community Bankers of America. They are one of nearly 5,000 community banks representing more than 23,000 locations nationwide and employing more than 280,000 people.

Community Banks pride themselves on reinvesting deposits back into their communities, mainly through residential mortgages and small business loans.

In addition, Altoona First supports many area civic and non-profit groups. So take advantage of Altoona First’s generosity, and ride the bus for free April 2-6.
AMTRAN Tests
New Fare Collection System
for Transit Industry

AMTRAN is partnering with Avail Technologies of State College to develop a “game-changing” new fare collection system, which is expected to have a significant impact on the transit industry nationwide.

Customer Benefits
The new myFare system offers benefits to AMTRAN but more importantly it offers benefits to AMTRAN’s customers. The proximity smart card is simple to use. Just tap it on the reader. There’s no more stuffing bills into a farebox or digging for exact change. And the card is reloadable right on the bus, saving customers the hassle of having to renew their cards at a central location. With myFare, customers can feel secure if their smart card is lost or stolen because a simple call to the agency will cancel the card.

Benefits to AMTRAN
Transit providers will be able to reduce the cost of handling the cash box each day and increase the speed at which customers enter the bus. The cutting-edge technology provides AMTRAN with an even better understanding of their ridership for service planning. And as a result, can make positive enhancements to the bus system based on actual customer usage.

Industry Game Changer
General Manager Eric Wolf believes that Avail’s new myFare system will be a game-changer for the transit industry because it’s an affordable smart-card solution. “We’ve heard a lot of promises over the years about utilizing smart card technology for transit,” says Wolf. “Avail’s myFare system delivers on that promise - without breaking the bank. Their tagline is ‘Enhance your rider’s experience,’ and that’s precisely what this technology will do.”

Partnership
Avail’s CEO, Dorsey Houtz, stated that AMTRAN was selected as the beta test site because of the exceptional decade-long relationship between the two organizations. “AMTRAN is an innovative organization with an engaged and dedicated staff,” said Houtz. “We’ve developed an excellent connection with them that will serve us well in a major project beta test like myFare.”

Technology Grant from Congressman Shuster
myFare is the final component of AMTRAN’s Smart Bus project funded by a Technology Grant through Congressman Bill Shuster. The initial component of the Smart Bus project, myStop, which provides real-time bus departure information to customers, earned AMTRAN a Technology Award from the Blair County Chamber of Commerce.