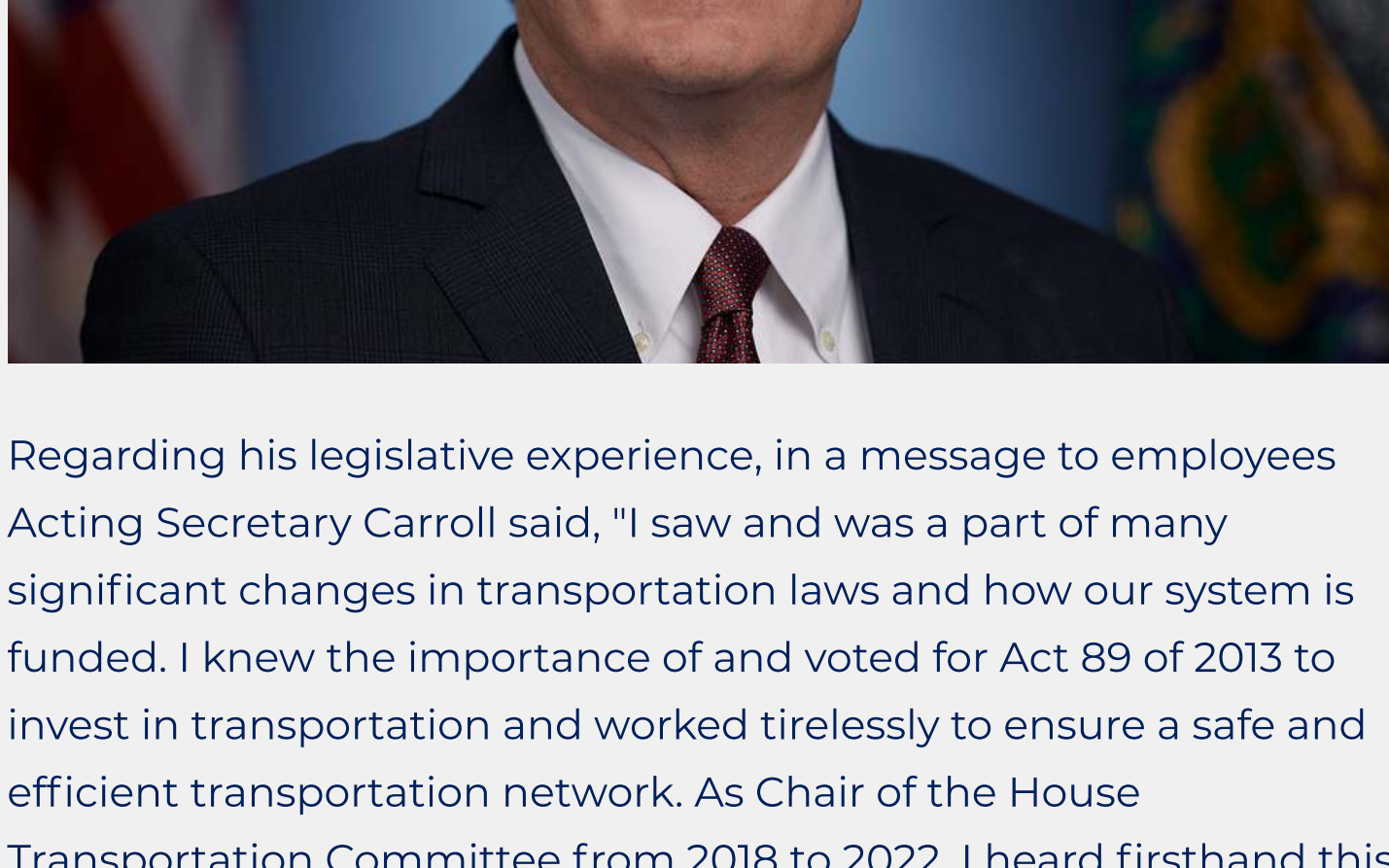


February 2023 Newsletter



Introducing Acting PennDOT Secretary Michael Carroll

In early January, Governor Josh Shapiro nominated **Michael (Mike) Carroll to be PennDOT Secretary**. He was first elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 2006 and subsequently re-elected for seven additional terms. Acting Secretary Carroll worked on transportation throughout his time in public office and served as Democratic Chairman of the House Transportation Committee for four years.



Regarding his legislative experience, in a message to employees Acting Secretary Carroll said, "I saw and was a part of many significant changes in transportation laws and how our system is funded. I knew the importance of and voted for Act 89 of 2013 to invest in transportation and worked tirelessly to ensure a safe and efficient transportation network. As Chair of the House Transportation Committee from 2018 to 2022, I heard firsthand this agency's accomplishments, challenges, and opportunities across transportation modes, licensing and vehicle services, and more."

In addition, Acting Secretary Carroll noted "We are at a unique moment in time where we have significant federal funding coming to Pennsylvania for the first time in years ... I'm committed to working on solutions to address our funding reliability and ensuring that every dollar that should be used on our roads and bridges will be."

States Examine New Funding Sources to Support Transportation Infrastructure

States across the country, including Pennsylvania, are experiencing declining revenue to support transportation infrastructure maintenance and improvements. For many years, states have relied on federal and state gasoline taxes to fund these projects. However, thanks to newer, hybrid and electric vehicles that use less gas or none at all, the time has come to explore more future-focused funding alternatives. Here are a few examples of funding options states are exploring:

Illinois:

- As Illinois pursues its **goal of putting 1 million EVs on state roads by the end of the decade**, it also faces a steep drop in transportation infrastructure funding. According to a **new report from the Illinois Economic Policy Institute**, total state and federal revenue loss over the next decade could reach approximately \$4.3 billion. The report recommends implementing a vehicle miles traveled (VMT) fee to replace the existing motor fuel tax with a fee determined by the number of miles a car travels on Illinois roads.

Washington:

- The **Washington State Transportation Commission anticipates a \$600 million decline in revenue** over the next 28 years, largely due to an ongoing reduction in motor fuel consumption. In a recent **report sent to the state's governor and legislature**, the Commission recommended that the state is well prepared and ready to advance a road usage charge (RUC) program, based on its research, pilot testing, and public outreach that began in 2012.

Ohio:

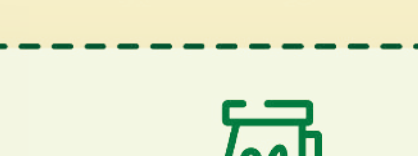
- The Ohio Department of Transportation is using a **\$4 million federal grant** to support a **website that features several options to replace the state's gas tax** to fund transportation infrastructure projects. Visitors to the site can take a survey to share their knowledge and opinions about road and bridge maintenance in Ohio, and the agency plans to gather the information and send a report to the General Assembly later this year. The site also features a short **video that further looks at the possible transportation funding alternatives**.

For information on how we are continuing our commitment to phase out the state gas tax, read this recent blog post – **Fairer Funding for The Future: Exploring Mileage-Based User Fees**.

PennDOT's 2022 Annual Report Available

PennDOT has released its 2022 Annual Report summarizing how it invested in all types of transportation last year. The state-maintained system alone is roughly 40,000 miles of state-owned roads and roughly 25,400 state-owned bridges, 35 fixed-route transit systems, 121 public-use airports, 259 private-use airports, 277 private-use heliports, three ports and the privately-owned network of more than 5,600 miles of freight railroad lines. State fuel taxes and various transportation fees support construction and maintenance on another 78,000 miles of municipal and county roads, along with 6,400 local bridges.

2022 PennDOT Highlights



510 State-owned bridges preserved or improved

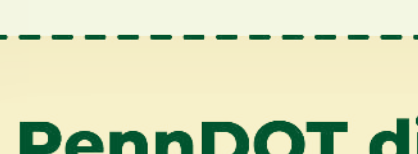


\$59.9 million for roadway patching



174,348 tons of asphalt used

(that is the same weight as 25,000 adult African elephants)



5,850 miles of improved roadway



PennDOT directly responsible for:

Approximately 40,000 miles of roadway and 25,400 bridges

The report notes that PennDOT remains focused on modernizing transportation funding in Pennsylvania, reducing reliance on the state gas tax and exploring new, 21st-century funding solutions through the **PennDOT Pathways program**.

Media Round-Up

Electric vehicle (EV) use is growing in the U.S. and around the world. Here is some recent media coverage of EV adoption:

- Global electric vehicle sales grow in 2022: **EVs Made Up 10% of All New Cars Sold Last Year - WSJ**

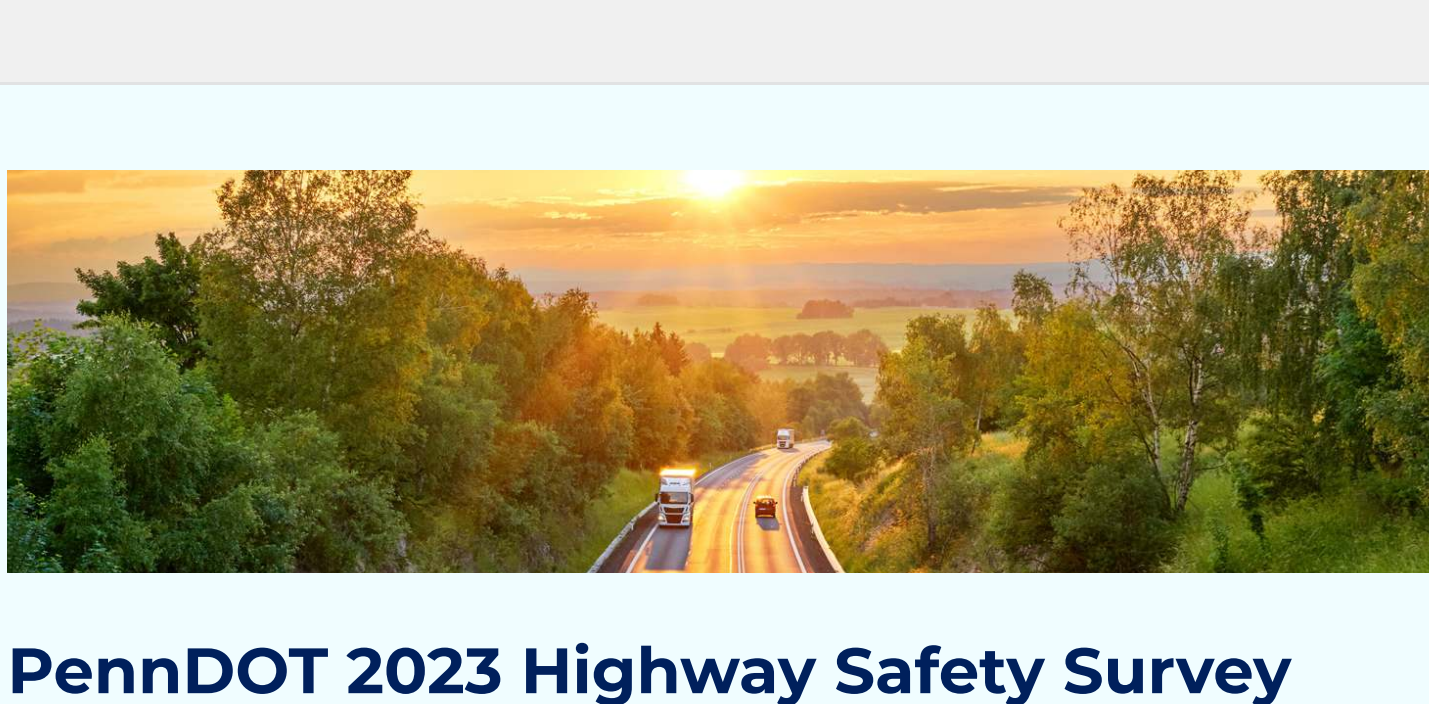
Global sales of fully electric vehicles totaled around 7.8 million units in 2022, an increase of as much as 68% from the previous year. While China and Europe are driving this increase, the U.S. EV market is gaining traction.

- PepsiCo invests in electric truck fleet: **Exclusive: PepsiCo to roll out 100 Tesla Semis in 2023, exec says | Reuters**

PepsiCo plans to deploy 15 electric semi-trucks from its Modesto, California, plant and 21 from its Sacramento location. After that, the company plans to roll out the fleet in the central U.S. and then the east coast.

- Enormous EV Opportunity in the U.S.: **Secretaries Buttigieg, Granholm Tout EVs at TRB | Transport Topics (ttnews.com)**

U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg and Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm highlighted recent policies supporting electric vehicle use at the annual meeting of the Transportation Research Board. According to *Transport Topics*, Secretary Buttigieg noted, "The industry is going electric. It's true here, and it's true around the world."



PennDOT 2023 Highway Safety Survey

PennDOT wants to know what you think and is seeking motorists' input on traffic safety and driving behaviors through our annual online Highway Safety Survey. Make your input count! The survey is available through February 28, 2023 and should take about five minutes to complete. All responses are completely anonymous.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2023HighwaySafety>

New USDOT Discretionary Grant Resources

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) has developed a discretionary grant preparation checklist for fiscal year 2023 to help applicants prepare and chart a strategic pathway to apply for infrastructure investments. More than \$32 billion is available to the USDOT this fiscal year to provide competitive grant funding to local governments, metropolitan planning organizations, transit agencies, Tribal governments, U.S. Territories and state departments of transportation. The USDOT has published a list of anticipated dates for upcoming Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs) for key programs within the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), as well as adjacent programs that support BIL and IRA objectives. This list is not comprehensive, and the agency will periodically update it with additional programs and revised dates as appropriate. Both resources can be found at the **PennDOT IJA Page**.

For more information about PennDOT Pathways, visit our website at penndot.pa.gov/funding.

Want to share information on your social or digital platforms?

Find image, video and other resources in the **Funding Media Center**.

Contact Us

Website Comment Form: [Click here](#)



PennDOTPathways@pa.gov



Hotline: 717-325-6129

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