



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG

October 15, 2007

THE GOVERNOR

The Honorable Mary E. Peters, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Peters:

On July 18, 2007, I signed into law Pennsylvania Act 44 of 2007, which directs the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission to seek approval from U.S. DOT for the tolling of I-80 as part of a multi-part funding plan for the commonwealth's long-term surface transportation funding needs. Much of this 311-mile long corridor—a critical link between the Northeast and Midwest—is now 40 years old, and requires substantial improvement to meet user needs. Yet it comprises less than 20% of the 1,759 miles of Interstate highway on 22 separate routes throughout Pennsylvania that need to be adequately operated, maintained, and improved.

Current state and federal resources are simply insufficient to ensure that this key corridor remains safe and serviceable to the tens of thousands of commercial and passenger vehicles that use it every day. It is for this reason that Act 44 authorizes PennDOT to lease I-80 to the Turnpike Commission, and to convert it to a toll road. Over the next decade, the Commission plans to invest at least \$1 billion *more* in road enhancements and improvements than is possible using continued Motor License Fund resources. Over the 50-year term of the lease, tolls will support more than \$16 billion of outlays, freeing up valuable resources for the remainder of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's 40,000 miles of road system.

As you are aware, the statutory provision in TEA-21 for the Interstate Reconstruction pilot calls for "giving preference to the use of a public toll agency with demonstrated capability to build, operate, and maintain a toll expressway system meeting criteria for the Interstate system." The accompanying conference report for TEA-21 specifically referenced I-80 in Pennsylvania as a candidate for the program.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you give prompt and favorable consideration to the application being submitted to your department regarding the tolling of I-80 in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward G. Rendell".

Edward G. Rendell
Governor

Enclosure