



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
HARRISBURG

THE GOVERNOR

July 21, 2008

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

Dear Secretary Peters:

At my request and with my support, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (Commission) and Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) are submitting an amended application to obtain Phase 1 approval from USDOT for tolling Interstate 80 (I-80), under the Interstate System Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Pilot Program.

The General Assembly authorized this initiative when it enacted Act 44 last summer, which I signed into law on July 17, 2007. Pursuant to Act 44, PennDOT and the Commission entered into a lease agreement for I-80 in October 2007.

Over the last six months, considerable progress has been made in more specifically identifying the I-80 capital improvements to be funded with new toll revenues, and refining I-80's traffic, revenue, and operating expense forecasts. The Commission has scheduled meetings with the affected Metropolitan and Regional Planning Organizations over the next several weeks to review the proposed tolling policy and potential tolling locations.

As you and I both appreciate, transportation needs continue to grow and construction costs continue to escalate, while existing revenue sources such as gas tax receipts are stagnant or declining due to higher prices and increased fuel efficiency. Act 44's revenues are inflation-sensitive and based upon direct user pricing through tolls, reducing the Commonwealth's reliance on gas tax revenues – both state and federal.

I urge you to give prompt, favorable consideration to this amended application so that Pennsylvania can reconstruct this vitally important interstate highway and satisfy the legislative intent of Act 44.

Yours truly,

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

Edward G. Rendell  
Governor