

**Remarks of Marilyn B. Wood
Project Director,
Southeastern Pennsylvania Metropolitan Development Network Project
10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania
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Good morning. I am Marilyn Wood. I am testifying on behalf of 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania and the project I direct, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Metropolitan Development Network. Our Network consists of regional and local developers, advocates and community leaders from Philadelphia, Bucks, Montgomery, Delaware and Chester counties. Some participating organizations include the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania, Delaware Valley Planning Commission, The Reinvestment Fund, the Building Industry Association of Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Greater Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition, the Pennsylvania Economy League and others. Our goal is to identify and encourage policies which make Southeastern PA a more prosperous, green and healthy place to live.

I am testifying today because, after months of deliberating about the complex development issues in the region, our network has identified the transportation crisis as our top action priority. The Network participants, like planners, advocates and officials from many metropolitan areas around the country who are making multi- billion dollar financial commitments to create NEW mass transit systems, know that the economic health of our Southeastern region can improve dramatically if our existing system becomes a more dynamic one.

We were encouraged by the thoughtful, clear way the transportation crisis is detailed in the commission's initial report, "Investing in our Future" and congratulate you on your efforts in auditing the extent of this problem.

We agree that the historic funding approaches for transit are inadequate and we support increased transit funding which will create the foundation for new efficiencies and innovation at SEPTA.

We agree that increased funding is imperative to eliminate the backlog of deferred maintenance of our roads and bridges. We suggest a funding formula allocating 90% of the funding for repair and maintenance of existing infrastructure, especially in reinvestment areas, and allocate the remaining 10% for new projects.

We understand that it is unrealistic to expect the State to finance the entire gap between existing revenue and the new funding needs. We support incentives for innovative regional solutions which would generate significant local funding.

But just solving the funding problem will not solve the systems crisis in our transportation system.

It is imperative that the funding increases are viewed as important investments, not simply additional funding. According to the American Public Transportation Association, every dollar invested in public transit creates a return of \$4.00 - \$9.00 into local economies. Creative integrated solutions that link transportation and land use investments will help insure the maximum return for these investments.

For example, The Transportation Revitalization Investment District (TRID) program initiated by Representative Geist and the General Assembly is one tool which has the potential to successfully maximize our investments by encouraging planning for development around transit hubs. Transit oriented development projects created by TRIDs have the potential to revitalize small towns and city neighborhoods alike while they increase rider ship and generate significant new revenues. These relatively small programs can have a big impact and need to be fully funded.

Another excellent program is the Transportation Community Development Initiative of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission which awards communities planning dollars to link community development efforts and transportation. Making capital dollars available for the implementation of the plans would increase the effectiveness and impact of this program.

Other incentives to encourage the involvement of transit agencies in transit oriented development projects will hopefully be identified and considered as part of the solution.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your efforts in addressing this critical problem. We look forward to working with you to adopt bold solutions which can generate economic growth and prosperity in our region and throughout the state of Pennsylvania.