

**Testimony of Sean Logan  
President and CEO, Monroeville Area Chamber of Commerce ~ Visit Monroeville**

**Pennsylvania Senate Democratic Policy Committee  
The Mon Fayette Expressway  
June 1, 2021**

Good afternoon. I'd like to begin by welcoming everyone to Monroeville today and thank you for selecting our community as the location for this hearing on what I believe is a very important issue.

Chairwoman Muth, Senator Brewster and members of the committee – thank you for allowing me to give what I believe to be my unique perspective into this matter.

As someone who has worn several hats by serving in various positions directly related to the economic development of this area, I know firsthand how vital the investment into this project and its completion is to the Mon Valley and Eastern Suburbs of Allegheny County.

As Mayor of Monroeville in the late-1990s, I was a staunch advocate for this portion of the expressway. It was obvious to local officials and area business groups how the investment into this infrastructure would open access both physically and economically not only to Monroeville, but also to the portions of Westmoreland County that border the immediate area.

Immediately following my tenure as mayor, I served in the state Senate for 10 years. When my representation expanded beyond the borders of Monroeville and into the greater Mon Valley, my support of the expressway grew exponentially. I

was now in a position to see how it would open opportunity for those communities that were decimated from what they once were.

With the promise of the type of development that could be spurred by providing greater access, these abandoned mill sites in town after town would become more attractive to businesses looking to relocate or expand.

In 2013, I was nominated and confirmed to serve on the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission. As a Commissioner, including several years as Chair of the Commission, I progressed from my advocacy role with regard to the expressway expansion into a position of overseeing where the implementation of the roadway actually occurred, as original authorization for the project placed construction responsibilities onto the Turnpike Commission.

During my time with the Turnpike Commission, it became crystal clear that the need and desire for this portion of the project were there. This roadway represents a project that has been a priority for generations. It has always had a tie to I-376 and the project has been clearly identified in several legislative updates of the original act.

The project has always been included on the list of priority projects since its original authorization in 1985. Acting to move the project forward, represents honoring a commitment made many years ago to the people and businesses of the region that they would not be forgotten.

The enormous benefits the completion of this project would bring was never and is still not in question. The ongoing hurdle is funding. This entire roadway has been

exclusively funded by state dollars. And as we all know, the fixed funding mechanism we have in this Commonwealth simply does not generate enough to meet our transportation needs.

We desperately need a federal infrastructure bill at the national level, and we need it sooner rather than later. And I strongly believe that this project should be on the list of those that are financed by it.

As I sit before you today, I can say with certainty that opening access to the Mon Valley, Eastern suburbs and portions of Westmoreland County is critical to our continued recovery and revitalization. Many industrial sites in the Mon Valley have been remediated and are ready for development. The same exists for Monroeville and its surrounding communities.

Whenever I speak with companies and business owners who express interest in moving to the region, they want to know about the status of our portion of the Mon Fayette Expressway and when it will be completed as it is an important factor in their decision-making.

This project has the chance to fundamentally alter the course of this entire region. The final leg of the expressway is a critical piece in developing a state-of-the-art transportation network that is necessary to aid development and create new jobs.

Thank you again for allowing me to testify. I'd be happy to take any questions.

