

DIVERSION OF MOTOR LICENSE FUNDS TO THE STATE POLICE

Background

- The Motor License Fund receives revenue from transportation user fees - including taxes on liquid fuels and license and registration fees - to pay for highway purposes, which includes highway safety.
- A portion of the Motor License Fund is used to pay for highway patrol operations, even though the State Police perform a number of other law enforcement services that do not involve patrolling highways.
- Nearly half of Pennsylvania's 2,561 municipalities do not have local police coverage and instead rely on the State Police for coverage to save money.
- Pennsylvania's Auditor General recently released an audit that highlighted the fact that a significant amount of the funds generated from the state gas tax are not being spent the way they were intended, but instead are being used to support State Police operations.
- The funding that has been diverted could have been utilized to eliminate the list of 2,829 structurally deficient bridges in the Commonwealth.
- While there is currently a plan in place to reduce State Police payments by 4 percent per year from the Motor License Fund, more can be done.

CAWP Message

- **Accelerate the current Cap on Motor License Funds going to the State Police** – The PA General Assembly, using the projected budget surplus for 2018-19, should accelerate the cap from 4 percent per year to 10 percent per year. This would result in an additional \$65 million being available to fix our highways. Doing this would result in no further diversion of highway funds in approximately ten years. Increasing the cap amount is estimated to be the equivalent of a cent per gallon increase each year in the gas user fee and would not result in an increase fuel taxes.