

RESOLUTION R-2021-_____
LUZERNE COUNTY COUNCIL

*A Resolution by the Luzerne County Council to oppose the implementation
of Act 88 of 2012 P3 Program regarding tolling of bridge on Pennsylvania Interstates
especially Luzerne County*

WHEREAS, On February 18, 2021 PennDOT issued a press release that it would request proposals this spring to TOLL NINE BRIDGES on Pennsylvania interstates, two of which are located in Luzerne County on Interstate 80, as part of its “Pathways Program”; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly passed Act 89 of 2013 to fund road projects, bridge repairs and public transit thus resulting in the nation’s second highest gasoline tax, yet a significant portion of revenues were expended to cover holes in the PA State Police budget and thus presently contributes to PennDOT’s current self-proclaimed \$8.1 Billion shortfall; and

WHEREAS, PennDOT’s own numbers show that revenue generated from tolling just one bridge at \$1 will pay off its \$40 million construction and maintenance costs in under four years, which will fill the private developer’s pocket with millions and secure untold millions for unrelated PennDOT projects; and

WHEREAS, this proposal will disproportionately affect residents and businesses in Southern Luzerne County and negatively impact commerce across northeastern Pennsylvania and contribute to an economic slowdown of many area businesses which rely on shipping; and

WHEREAS, this proposal will force drivers to use secondary state, county, and local roads in order to avoid paying the extra cost and thus contribute to wear-and-tear on said roads, which in turn will drive up maintenance costs for all governments; and

WHEREAS, stakeholders like The Greater Wyoming Valley Chamber of Commerce, Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce, CANDU, Hazleton City Council and The Institute for Public Policy & Economic Development have made public statements against this proposal; and

WHEREAS, county residents successfully rallied against instituting tolls on I-80 in the wake of Act 88 and have expressed the same volume of contempt for this current proposal; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Luzerne County Council implores the Pennsylvania P3 Board to IMMEDIATELY REVERSE ITS APPROVAL of the “Major Bridge P3 Initiative” which was approved on November 12, 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, if swift reversal is not forthcoming, the governor and general assembly take the necessary action to PUT AN IMMEDIATE STOP to this grossly unpopular proposal to toll ANY bridge in the Commonwealth, but especially those two that will affect Luzerne County citizens.

This Resolution shall become effective _____.

ADOPTED at a meeting of the Luzerne County Council held on _____.

ROLL CALL VOTE ()

YES:

NO:

LUZERNE COUNTY COUNCIL

By: _____
Tim McGinley, Chair

Attest: _____
Sharon Lawrence, Clerk of Council

LUZERNE COUNTY MANAGER

By: _____
C. David Pedri, Esq., County Manager