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Senate of Pennsylvania

**Marshall's Creek Traffic Relief Project
Submitted to the Pocono Record
August 15, 2008**

Dear Editor:

I appreciated the opportunity to participate in the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's (PennDOT) recent advisory group meeting to discuss the status of the Marshall's Creek Traffic Relief Project. This project is vital to our region's quality of life and economic vitality.

The decision to advance a portion of the work on the Marshall's Creek Bypass next year is welcome, and shows positive progress by the department in consultation with our community. However, this is only a first step. The plan outlined at the meeting does not fully alleviate concerns about traffic safety and congestion problems that have plagued this growing community for more than 20 years. Questions regarding the amount of funding that has been allocated for the project also remain.

PennDOT must demonstrate its continued commitment to addressing these issues by making this project a high-priority, and by honoring its promise to move forward once the special design team completes revisions to the project scope. I have also encouraged the department to take a closer look at the accident history data along the corridor, as well as time runs conducted around the I-80 interchange during its evaluation process.

The citizens and elected officials of this region will continue to press for the completion of a long-term solution to these issues. We expect that a detailed analysis of the revised land use data and stakeholder interviews will result in concrete recommendations and timelines for action.

**Lisa Baker
Senator
20th District**