April 19, 2021

Senator Wayne Langerholc
Chairman, Senate Transportation Committee
Senate Box 203035
187 Main Capitol Bldg.
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Senator Langerholc,

The Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) represents over 900+ borough communities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and their thousands of elected and appointed officials who govern those communities. I write today to express PSAB’s full support for Senate Bill 283, sponsored by Senator Scott Hutchinson, which amends the State Highway Law to clarify maintenance responsibilities for drainage facilities on state highways in boroughs and incorporated towns.

According to the State Highway Law, PennDOT is responsible for the maintenance of the surface of state highways in boroughs and the Secretary of PennDOT has the discretion to determine the maintenance of the subsurface drainage facilities on state highways in boroughs. Surprisingly, PennDOT’s Drainage Policy has for years saddled borough communities with the costly responsibility of maintaining drainage facilities on state highways. This policy, which is in essence an unfunded mandate, results in less public transportation dollars to maintain local roads and places more financial stress on the local taxpayer. To add to the complexity of this mandate, PennDOT does not require all classes of municipalities to maintain state highway drainage facilities.

**Senate Bill 283** would partially correct this longstanding inequity in boroughs with state highways. The bill will require PennDOT to maintain their drainage facilities in all borough communities under 2,500 population. Many smaller boroughs do not have the funds or revenue base to pay for this service from PennDOT, a service which could be done with less expense through PennDOT which possesses a larger workforce and more resources.

We respectfully request your full support for **Senate Bill 283** on Tuesday April 20, 2021 in the Senate Transportation Committee. Thank you for calling up the bill for consideration. If you have any questions, please contact me at (717) 236-9526 ext.1021 or etroxell@boroughs.org.

Sincerely,

Edward C. Troxell
Director, PSAB Government Affairs