

## Pennsylvania rural roads, bridges get poor marks

FRONT PAGE



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Rural roads and bridges in Pennsylvania don't get the care they need, and motorists are nearly three times as likely to die on rural roads in the state, according to a study released last week by the national transportation research group TRIP.

The report comes two weeks after [the state canceled a \\$200 million program to upgrade 900 miles of rural roads](#) for the second year in a row because of continuing costs from landslides, but the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation says it is caring for rural roads through another program.

The study, called ["Rural Connections: Challenges and Opportunities in America's Heartland,"](#) said road conditions can be more important to rural residents and businesses because there aren't as many transportation options as in urban areas. Almost all farms and many manufacturing facilities are in rural areas and need roads and bridges to get their products to market.

In addition, road access is important to travel and tourism, the study said, because a vast majority of tourist attractions, including state and national parks, are in areas with a population of below 2,500, the federal definition of a rural area.

"Roads, highways, rails and bridges in the nation's heartland face a number of significant challenges: they lack adequate capacity; they fail to provide needed levels of connectivity to many communities; and, they cannot adequately support growing freight travel in many corridors," the study said.

"Rural roads and bridges have significant deficiencies and deterioration, they lack many desirable safety features, and they experience fatal traffic crashes at a rate far higher than all other roads and highways."

The 43-page study reviewed data for all states and concluded that Pennsylvania ranks 12th in the number of rural roads in poor condition at 21%; fourth in rural bridges in poor condition at 18%; and 20th in deaths per million vehicle miles traveled at 2.18. On all

other Pennsylvania roads, the death rate per million vehicle miles traveled was 0.79.

Across the country, too many rural roads have poor pavement conditions, narrow lanes and inadequate lighting, all of which contribute to higher-than-expected accident rates, the study said. Nationally, the rate of deaths per million miles traveled is 2.14 in rural areas and 0.88 on all roads.

In a statement about the study, PennDOT spokeswoman Alexis Campbell said Gov. Tom Wolf's Restore Pennsylvania program "includes a focus on rural roadways and flood control infrastructure among its many benefits." The program will invest \$4.5 billion over four years on road and bridge work as well as other projects such as expanding broadband service in rural areas, reducing blight in urban and rural areas, and improving the availability of natural gas to communities.

"There's no question that Pennsylvania is in desperate need of infrastructure funding," Ms. Campbell said. "While PennDOT has made the most of the resources it has available, a significant investment on the part of the federal government is becoming more and more unlikely," referring to President Donald Trump's [refusal Wednesday to discuss funding a proposed \\$2 trillion national infrastructure bill](#) as long as Democrats continue to investigate his conduct.

Ms. Campbell said that since 2015 there are 364 fewer miles of roads with a poor ride quality and nearly 1,200 fewer poor-quality bridges since 2014.

Doug Hill, executive director of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania, praised PennDOT for taking a creative approach to addressing rural issues. On bridges, for example, the department started a program that bundles several county-owned bridges in one area under a single contract,

## Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

### Renault considers merger with Fiat Chrysler

By Rhinlyngear  
CNS

Renault is considering a merger with Fiat Chrysler, a deal that would reshape the global auto industry and help the automakers compete in the race for electric and self-driving vehicles.

The French automaker said Monday that it would study with interest a "friendly" proposal from Fiat Chrysler that would give the shareholders 5% ownership of a combined business with annual vehicle sales of 11 million.

If completed, the merger would cross the world's third-largest carmaker behind Volkswagen and Toyota. General Motors would fall to fourth in the global rankings.

Renault stock rose more than 15% in Paris on Monday, while Fiat Chrysler shares jumped around 11% in Milan.

The companies had been discussing ways to cooperate on products and technologies, but Fiat Chrysler said in a statement earlier this year that more could be gained from a merger.

"These discussions made clear that broader collaboration through a combination would substantially improve cost efficiency and the speed of product development," the American company said.

The deal would bring benefits to both countries, Fiat Chrysler chairman John Elkann told reporters in Italy, noting that it had been in the works since Fiat's takeover of bankrupt Chrysler in exchange for smaller car technology and management know-how.

Before its board met Monday at the company's headquarters

in Warren, Michigan, Renault said it would study the proposal. The deal would give the shareholders 5% ownership of a combined business with annual vehicle sales of 11 million.

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**BILL BUCKNER DIES**  
The former Boston Red Sox player died at age 84.

### Worries over North Korea linger as Trump ends visit to Japan

The Associated Press

TOKYO — All the pomp and pageantry in the world couldn't paper over the tensions between President Donald Trump and Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe over the missile tests North Korea and the threat of a nuclear war.

The president and prime minister were separately reuniting their differences during Mr. Trump's four-day state visit to Tokyo, while playing up their close personal friendship and their countries' shared interests in regional stability.

Mr. Trump, who has been in Japan for the past several days, said he was "impressed" with the new Japanese prime minister and the "strong" relationship between the two nations.

Mr. Abe, who has been in Japan for the past several days, said he was "impressed" with the new Japanese president and the "strong" relationship between the two nations.

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### Parade, 'Taps' mark Allegheny Cemetery's 150th Memorial Day celebration



Holly Hicks Osprey, of Bethel Park, cries Monday as a bugler plays "Taps" during a ceremony to honor those who have served in the military after the 151st Lawrensville Memorial Day parade in the Allegheny Cemetery in Lawrensville, Mo. Hicks Osprey's father, a WWII Navy vet, is buried in the Allegheny Cemetery. "He's been gone for over 20 years, but the idea you get the more you realize what these men went through and the honors they died," she said. Visit [post-gazette.com](http://post-gazette.com) for a video report.

## HONORING THE FALLEN

The 11th consecutive Lawrensville Memorial Day parade... The festive parade was followed by a solemn service at the Soldiers Memorial, a stone monument in the cemetery tucked away from the parade's main route.

"You need to reflect on the people who have served their country," said Stephen Weisler of Squared Mile, who was the host of the parade. "They sacrificed their lives for our freedom, and we need to honor them."

A special service in the cemetery was held for the fallen soldiers. The service was held in the cemetery tucked away from the parade's main route.

### Instead of graduation, a funeral for McKeesport Area senior killed by gunfire

## A life remembered — and a future lost

By Shelly Bradbury  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Prison might compromise work for two sisters Morgan and Joe Morgan, but it didn't stop them from celebrating the life of their brother, Morgan, who died in a shooting in McKeesport on Monday.

Morgan, 33, was shot in the chest while walking to work on Monday. He was taken to the McKeesport Community Center hospital, but he had been shot in the head, and he died.

Now, instead of watching two daughters graduate this week, Ms. Krizan will watch her 14-year-old daughter, Krizan, graduate from the University of Pittsburgh on Thursday and her 16-year-old daughter, Morgan, graduate from the University of Pittsburgh on Friday.

Ms. Krizan's mother, Angela Krizan, 41, said Monday, Morgan's death was a tragedy for the family. Morgan was a hard worker who had worked so long for the company that he had been a part of for 10 years.

"She wasn't a gangster," Ms. Krizan said. "She was a good person."

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President Donald Trump speaks at a news conference Monday at the Akasaka Palace in Tokyo.

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saving money and time on completion and eliminating a local financial contribution. The state also has fixed more than 550 small bridges, many of them in rural areas, over the past four years through a public-private partnership with contractor Plenary Walsh Keystone Partners.

"I'd put them well ahead of other states in terms of their imagination and creativity," Mr. Hill said. "They're as efficient as they can be with the money available."

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