

**SLIP SLIDIN' AWAY**



**A Little League fan** slides on the muddy hillside overlooking Lamade Stadium during a rain delay in the baseball game between Manati, Puerto Rico and Nuevo Laredo, Mexico during pool play at the Little League World Series in South Williamsport, Pa., on Monday. Mexico won the game.

Gene J. Puskar/Associated Press

**Rendell, aide urge funding**

By Mark Scoloro  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

HARRISBURG, Pa. — A summer-long discussion of Pennsylvania's highway, bridge and mass transit needs resumed Monday with an unusual joint meeting in which House and Senate members grilled the state transportation secretary about a proposal to raise \$1 billion annually in new funding.

Transportation Secretary Allen Biehler said the state could raise that sum by taxing oil company profits and increasing motorist fees.

But some were skeptical that legislation could pass in the fall, when most lawmakers face re-election and Gov. Ed Rendell winds down his second term.

Sen. John Wozniak, D-Cambria, put the odds for movement at slim to none, and said "none have left Dodge until after the election."

Rendell said the public supports upgrading the transportation network and cautioned lawmakers that inaction would only delay the inevitable and add to its cost.

The governor wants to impose an 8 percent levy on the gross profits of oil companies, which largely are able to avoid the state's corporate net income tax.

He also would increase license, registration and vehicle fees to equal the rate of inflation since they were most recently changed — in some cases, decades ago.

"I believe quite strongly the time to act is now," Rendell told reporters shortly before the House-Senate caucus meeting.

His plan would raise driver's license fees from \$21 to \$25, the cost to register a passenger vehicle from \$36 to \$49 and the price of a personal registration plate, generally speaking, from \$20 to \$51.

Rendell, who has barnstormed the state for weeks to press for action on transportation infrastructure funding, warned that a no-new-taxes pledge by the Republican candidate to replace him, Tom Corbett, could freeze funding for years to come.

"That means this will not get done for at least five years," Rendell said.

About \$700 million of the proposed new money would be spent on roads and bridges, the rest on mass transit. The Rendell administration says the state currently owns 5,646 structurally deficient bridges, the most in the country, and has more than 10,000 miles of roadway in need of repair.



Rendell

**Preservation group backs casino plan**

A Gettysburg developer has proposed to turn an existing development into a "resort casino."

"[We] would not support a commercial project that would use . . . the battlefield."

**Brendan Synnamon**

President, Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association

By the Associated Press

GETTYSBURG — The plan to build a new casino close to the site of the bloodiest battle of the Civil War has sparked support and opposition from locals and out-of-towners.

Last week, the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association announced its support for the proposal to turn an existing hotel and conference center into a casino.

That came just days after the national head of the American Legion declared the plan "a national disgrace" — much to the dismay of local officials who weren't consulted before the announcement.

The dispute involves a local developer's proposal to turn the Eisenhower Conference Center, a hotel complex about a half-mile from the battlefield, into a "resort casino," which would include 600 slot machines and 50 gaming tables.

The Gettysburg proposal is vying with three others for a state gaming license.

The preservation group supported the casino plan, saying it would be on the site of an existing development and wouldn't interfere with battlefield's boundaries. Meanwhile, it would provide much-needed economic development.

"The Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association would not support a commercial project that would use or impinge upon the battlefield," association president Brendan Synnamon said.

Critics have suggested the association's support for the plan is a result of contributions and support from casino developer David LeVan, but Synnamon denied any conflict of interest in an interview with The Patriot-News of Harrisburg.

Critics and supporters of the casino plan have been reacting to pro-

nouncements from others about the proposal's merit.

The supervisors of Cumberland Township, where the casino would be located, support the plan.

So, too, do the Adams County Commissioners and the local chamber of commerce.

American Legion National Commander Clarence E. Hill doesn't like the plan, saying it's too close to the scene of "substantial fighting" and hypothesizing that soldiers could be buried on the site in unmarked graves.

The head of Gettysburg American Legion Post 202 said the locals weren't consulted.

"Personally, he has no idea what he's talking about," Richard Baumgardner, the commander of the Gettysburg Post, told the Gettysburg Times.

He also noted that his Post is officially neutral on the subject.

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