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**CONTACT: Beth Horne-Beachy (717) 787-7895**

### **Investing in the future of Pennsylvania and its families**

HARRISBURG, Jan. 2 - As he was sworn in for his 12<sup>th</sup> term representing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District, state Rep. Italo Cappabianca, D-Erie, said he looked forward to working hard for his constituents.

"This has been a rough couple of years as I've battled cancer, but during that time I continued to work for the needs of Erie and its people," Cappabianca said. "As Democratic chairman of the House Transportation Committee, I will begin this new session with an eye toward the transportation needs of the city and region. I will put my energies behind improving Pennsylvania's highways and byways in an effort to create a bright economic future for the region and for the state."

Cappabianca added that he would work hard to ensure the state's share of the national tobacco settlement is wisely allocated and invested, so that it will benefit the state and its residents for years to come.

Swearing-in ceremonies at the state Capitol today marked the start of the General Assembly's 185<sup>th</sup> legislative session.

First elected to the House in 1979, Cappabianca serves the 2<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District, which includes the city of Erie.

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**Cappabianca announces program offering free eye exams**

HARRISBURG, Jan. 3 - Low-income working families without eye exam insurance coverage have an opportunity to obtain a free eye exam, according to state Rep. Italo Cappabianca, D-Erie.

"I encourage families to take advantage of the VISION USA program, which provides free eye exams and vision care to individuals and families who qualify," Cappabianca said. "It always is better to take a proactive approach to health care and, in the case of eyesight, an eye exam can catch a problem early and correct it before it becomes a major health threat, or even leads to blindness."

The Pennsylvania Optometric Association and the Pennsylvania Vision Conservation Institute provide the program. It provides eye exams and eyewear through the voluntary efforts of local doctors of optometry. Last year, over 730 Pennsylvanians received comprehensive eye exams through the program and more than 530 received free eyeglasses.

To qualify, individuals or families must have a job or live in a household where at least one person is working full or part time; must not have public or private insurance that covers eye exams; must not exceed the income level; and must not have had an eye exam during the past two years.

"The application process is straightforward and can be done either over the telephone or by computer," Cappabianca said. "The five or 10 minutes it takes to obtain information and apply can mean years of better sight for you or your family. I encourage people to apply."

Information about the program is available through Cappabianca's office at 814-453-7639; at the VISION USA Web site at [www.aoanet.org](http://www.aoanet.org); or by contacting your local Salvation Army office. Applications must be filed before Jan. 26. To register by phone from now until Jan. 31, call 800-766-4466, Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Vision screenings will take place during Save Your Vision Week, March 4-10.

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**State loan points to bright future**

HARRISBURG, Jan. 18 - A local distribution company has obtained a \$720,000 state loan to build a new Erie facility, according to state Rep. Italo Cappabianca, D-Erie.

Hardinger Transfer Company Inc., which operates under the name of Team Hardinger Transportation, will receive a Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority loan to construct a new 84,900-square-foot building at 1399 W. 18<sup>th</sup> St., Erie.

"Their efforts will result in the retention of 139 jobs," Cappabianca said. "I applaud the efforts of Hardinger for making a \$1.8 million investment in the Erie economy. These types of investments provide keen insight into the future economic growth of the region. And the future looks bright."

The Erie Industrial Development Corp. acted as a sponsor for the low-interest loan. PIDA loans can be used for land and building acquisition and construction or renovation. One of the authority's goals is to create or retain jobs.

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### **Outstanding teachers sought**

HARRISBURG, Jan. 25 - Teachers can be a guiding light for students, according to state Rep. Italo Cappabianca, D-Erie.

"Teachers take students on trips through history and excursions into the future," Cappabianca said. "By weaving life experiences with math, science, English and other courses, they educate our next generation of movers and shakers."

Outstanding teachers are invited to participate in the Christa McAuliffe Fellowship Program, which provides an opportunity for teachers to develop and continue educational projects and programs.

The fellowship was established to serve as a living memorial to Christa McAuliffe, a teacher who served as an astronaut on the ill-fated space shuttle Challenger.

The fellowship award is approximately \$40,000. The program is open to any public or private school teacher with at least eight years of experience. Funds can be used for professional development, instruction and assessment; for research; or for projects that involve the business community and schools. The project must be completed during the 2001-02 school year.

The application deadline is March 16.

For more information, write to the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency Christa McAuliffe Fellowship, P.O. Box 8114, Harrisburg, PA 17105.

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**Advisory committee reauthorized**

HARRISBURG, Jan. 30 - Legislation introduced by state Rep. Italo Cappabianca, D-Erie, would promote bicycle and pedestrian safety and programs throughout the state.

House Transportation Committee members voted legislation (H.B. 157) out of committee. The bill would reauthorize the Pennsylvania Pedalcycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

"It is important to give all segments of the public the ability to discuss their needs and problems," said Cappabianca, who is Democratic chairman of the Transportation Committee. "This committee gives voice to pedestrians and bicyclists, a growing population in Pennsylvania."

First established in 1995, the committee advises the administration, the legislature and state agencies of issues facing pedestrians and bicyclists. Cappabianca's legislation was needed to reauthorize the committee, because under the original law the committee expired on Dec. 31, 2000.

"ISTEA and TEA-21, the two latest federal transportation funding laws, made money available to states to build recreational trails," Cappabianca said. "Pennsylvania has been very aggressive in using those dollars and this committee has been helpful in developing good projects for trail users across the state."

The committee also approved a bill (H.B. 103) that would make several road, bridge and interchange designations. Cappabianca amended the bill to designate the interchange of Interstate 79 and Interstate 90 in Erie as the Charles D. Buzzanco Interchange.

Buzzanco was the former business manager of Local Union 603 of the Laborers' International Union of North America and a leader in the Erie community. He developed a scholarship fund for Local Union 603 for children to attend Edinboro University.

Additionally, he served on the board of the Erie Civic Center, worked with the Erie Conference on Community Development and was a member of the Wolves club in charge of scholarship funding.

The bills now go to the full House for consideration.

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**Asking for representation on emission-testing work group**

HARRISBURG, Feb. 1 -- A new work group charged with looking at how evolving technologies will impact emission testing in the state lacks one critical component, representation from the state legislature.

According to state Reps. Italo Cappabianca, D-Erie, and Keith McCall, D-Carbon, formal requests to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to be included on the committee were denied.

"While I agree with PennDOT that a study of the emission-testing system in Pennsylvania should be conducted before testing expands to areas currently not required to participate, I disagree with their idea of representation," McCall said. "The group will include motorists, environmental and business groups, service station representatives, and the federal Environmental Protection Agency, but not state-level policymakers, who ultimately will set the policy to govern future testing. This makes no sense."

Cappabianca, Democratic chairman of the House Transportation Committee, said legislative representation is crucial.

"Questions and controversy have surrounded the emission-testing program in Pennsylvania since its inception," Cappabianca said. "New technology has the potential to cut costs and streamline the emission-testing process. If this is the case then new testing should evenhandedly be implemented across the state and not just in the Pittsburgh and Philadelphia areas. The first step in this process is involving all of the necessary decision makers in the discussions."

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PennDOT and the Department of Environmental Protection have halted plans to expand emission testing to South Central Pennsylvania and the Lehigh Valley and announced they would create an Emission Inspection Policy Review Group to determine how new technology will impact emission testing. Federal guidelines also must be considered.

"What should be of tantamount importance in this entire process is protecting the environment," Cappabianca said. "That is supposedly why the federal government mandated emission testing in the first place. In addition to looking at passenger vehicle emissions, we should be studying the impact on air quality of other forms of transportation, as well as industry. A piecemeal approach to protecting the environment simply isn't acceptable."

McCall, as Democratic chairman of the House Consumer Affairs Committee, said he also is concerned about the impact of these emission-testing changes on stationary sources, such as energy providers and whether it would exacerbate the rates.

"As we work through this process we must make sure that all energy utilities are held harmless by any changes and that they aren't required to make additional efforts to further reduce pollution, which would lead to a sharp increase in energy rates," McCall said.

Both Cappabianca and McCall said they would closely monitor developments of the new work group and offer input when it is prudent.

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**Making state dollars work for people**

HARRISBURG, Feb. 6 - State Rep. Italo Cappabianca, D-Erie, said he generally was pleased with the budget proposed by the governor for 2001-02, but added that he saw a need to enhance a number of shortcomings.

"Overall, the budget addresses many of the needs voiced by people in Erie, but in certain areas, I believe we can and should do better," Cappabianca said.

The proposed General Fund budget includes a 4 percent increase in basic education, with an effort to direct more money to poorer school districts. A substantial increase in special education to \$861.4 million also is included, with each school district guaranteed a minimum increase of 5 percent.

"Once again, the budget doesn't specifically address class size reduction," Cappabianca said. "And it does little to increase the basic education subsidy to the former 50 percent funding level. We must better fund schools if we are going to address the issue of property taxes in a meaningful way."

In an effort to advance economic development, Cappabianca said he would amend the budget to include a larger allocation for PennPorts. PennPorts focus on the economic enhancement of ports in Philadelphia, Erie and Pittsburgh. Funds are used to generate port and shipping-related jobs, as well as to assist Pennsylvania firms in exporting their products.

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The proposed budget would decrease funding to PennPorts by 21.34 percent, from \$14.3 million to \$11.24 million.

"Next year's budget contains less funding for ports than this year's," Cappabianca said. "Once again, I will ask for not only an increase in state support of our port, but I will reiterate that the Erie, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia ports should receive equal distribution of these funds. We must recognize that each of Pennsylvania's ports is an integral part of our transportation network."

Finally, Cappabianca applauded the governor for including nearly \$90 million in the proposed budget for growing and enhancing biomedical research.

"I am living proof of what the great research facilities in Pennsylvania can do if they have the funding," Cappabianca said.

In looking at the overall budget, Cappabianca said that many of the new initiatives in the proposed budget are reflective of Democratic issues.

"This budget begins to recognize much of what House Democrats have been working for - early childhood development and biotechnology," Cappabianca said. "Today's address was an encouraging sign that the administration is listening to the needs of Pennsylvanians. As we continue the budget process, I will work to see that additional needs are met."

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### **Transportation issues move in House**

HARRISBURG, Feb. 13 - A full agenda of transportation issues were addressed by House members Monday, according to state Rep. Italo Cappabianca, Democratic chairman of the House Transportation Committee.

"Today's action was a step in the right direction for driver and pedestrian safety," said Cappabianca, an Erie Democrat.

Among the seven transportation bills brought to the House for consideration was a measure (H.B. 157) offered by Cappabianca. The bill would reestablish the Pennsylvania Pedalcycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

"ISTEA and TEA-21, the two latest federal transportation funding laws, made money available to states to build recreational trails," Cappabianca said. "Pennsylvania has been very aggressive in using those dollars and this committee has been helpful in developing good projects for trail users across the state."

According to Cappabianca, the committee gives voice to pedestrians and bicyclists, a growing population in Pennsylvania.

Additionally, House members voted for two highway-naming bills (H.B.s 99 and 103), as well as measures that would promote motor carrier safety (H.B. 153) and extend the reduced \$10 vehicle registration program for retired residents to active volunteer firefighters or fire police officers and emergency medical technicians and paramedics (H.B. 207).

Another bill (H.B. 155) would prohibit the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation from selling driver's license photos or identification cards for any commercial purpose, allow the establishment of emergency response areas and make technical changes to laws dealing with accident scenes and the role of emergency providers.

A final bill (H.B. 154) would allow PennDOT to paint and maintain pedestrian crosswalks located within school zones on state-designated highways; set fines for the violations of crosswalks and pedestrian control signals; and require all terrain vehicles and snowmobiles to be registered.

House members voted for all seven bills, which now go before the Senate for consideration.

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**A message for Pennsylvania voters**

HARRISBURG, Feb. 13 - Every vote should count in Pennsylvania, according to state Rep. Italo Cappabianca, D-Erie.

A resolution (H.R. 57) introduced by Cappabianca would ask the Joint State Government Commission to study Pennsylvania's election procedures and report its finding and recommendations.

"The recent general election pointed out that election systems are not infallible," Cappabianca said. "While Pennsylvania didn't come under the microscope that Florida did with the presidential re-count, we should consider this a wake-up call to look at our own system."

Cappabianca's resolution would require commission members to look at Pennsylvania's voting system, including absentee ballots, voting machines and the potential to implement new technology. The commission then will have six months to report its findings and make recommendations to the General Assembly.

"By taking a closer look at Pennsylvania's election system, we will be better prepared to meet the challenges of the next presidential election, as well as municipal and state elections," Cappabianca said. "The election process is important to all citizens, as well as the legislature and other state and local government officials. It is imperative that we be informed of any flaws in or possible improvements to Pennsylvania's election procedures."

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### **Airport project moves forward**

HARRISBURG, March 7 - Erie County Airport will share in \$4.6 million in capital budget grants approved by the governor, according to state Rep. Italo Cappabianca, D-Erie.

"In 1999, I and several members of the Erie delegation submitted a capital budget request for the first phase of a terminal building rehabilitation and expansion project. Today's funding announcement represents the culmination of the capital budget process," Cappabianca said. "I am gratified that Erie was selected to receive \$2 million for this important project."

According to Cappabianca, air travel is an important part of the overall transportation infrastructure in Erie.

"As we improve upon the existing infrastructure, we send a signal that the region is ready for expanded economic development," Cappabianca said. "Furthering economic development will lead to new job opportunities and an expanded tax base. By taking on one project at a time, we are building Erie's future. All the signs point to an Erie that will be a great place to live and work."

In all, 11 public-use airports were selected to share in the current round of approved capital budget grants. Capital budget funding is authorized by the General Assembly, but project funding must be approved by the governor.

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### **Transportation bill overcomes hurdle**

HARRISBURG, March 20 - With federal transportation funding laws in place, Pennsylvania has developed a network of recreational trails that adds a new facet to the travel and tourism industry and offers Pennsylvanians an innovative system of linear parks.

Advocating for and helping to create this system is the Pennsylvania Pedalcycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. A bill (H.B. 157) sponsored by state Rep. Italo Cappabianca, D-Erie, which was unanimously voted out of the Senate Transportation Committee today, would reauthorize the advisory panel to continue to give a voice to pedestrians and bicyclists. With today's action, the bill moves on to consideration by the full Senate.

"Pennsylvania has been very aggressive in using federal ISTEA and TEA-21 dollars to develop and build recreational trails," Cappabianca, Democratic chairman of the House Transportation Committee, said. "By reauthorizing this group we ensure that their work continues and that pedestrians and bicyclists have a seat at the state's transportation table."

The bill, which House members unanimously approved in February, would reestablish the committee within the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. The advisory committee will focus on providing opportunities for the use of alternative modes of travel that can co-exist with the present transportation system.

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**April 2, 2001**

**Boyes Bill Notifies Drivers of Penalties  
for Driving Around Railroad Crossing Gates**

**HARRISBURG** – Drivers tempted to ignore railroad crossing gates would be forewarned of the substantial penalties that await them for the violation under legislation introduced by Rep. Karl Boyes (R-Erie).

“I have received calls from several people who were upset by the high penalties they faced for driving around railroad crossing gates,” Boyes said. “While I believe the penalty is appropriate for the seriousness of the offense, I also think people have the right to know what those penalties are before they choose to break the law.”

Under Boyes’ proposal, railroad companies would be required to post signs outlining the penalties for violating the law, which says no person may drive any vehicle through, around or under any crossing gate or barrier at a railroad crossing while the gate or barrier is closed, or when the gate or barrier is being opened or closed. The penalties include fines ranging from \$200 to \$500, four points on the driver’s record and an automatic 30-day suspension of driving privileges.

House Bill 1257 has 29 co-sponsors, including Rep. Rick Geist (R-Blair) and Rep. Italo Cappabianca (D-Erie), majority and minority chairmen of the House Transportation Committee.

“While the extreme danger of this act is enough to deter many drivers, too many people continue to take a chance with their lives by driving around crossing gates,” Boyes said. “Perhaps making them aware of the penalties they face for ignoring these warnings will make them think twice about the seriousness of the violation.”

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### **Cappabianca sees vision on waterfront realized**

HARRISBURG, April 20 - For two years, state Rep. Italo Cappabianca, D-Erie, had a vision for Erie's waterfront property. Today, the vision came closer to becoming a reality.

"I am pleased the governor has approved and delivered \$32 million for the Erie Bay Front and convention center," Cappabianca said. "Erie's economic picture is intrinsically tied to tourism and the waterfront. Why should we keep the beauty of Erie a secret? Through this project, we will open the Erie shore to even more possibilities."

The state has approved \$32 million for a new 105,000 square-foot convention center, hotel, restaurant, parking garage and transportation center. Funding was approved by the General Assembly through the state's capital budget.

Cappabianca requested \$26 million in funding for the convention center project in the 1999 capital budget cycle and another \$12 million for the project in 2000. He was pleased, overall, that Erie received at least \$32 million of what he requested and that Erie will be receiving the largest-ever redevelopment assistance grant released by a Pennsylvania governor for a project outside of Philadelphia or Pittsburgh.

"Erie is my home, so I know how beautiful it is and what a wonderful place it will be for conventions and vacations, but it is gratifying to learn that Erie has taken its place next to Pittsburgh and Philadelphia as an important part of the tourism industry," Cappabianca said. "The new facility will better position Erie as a convention and meeting center in the state, with the added benefit of being located on a beautiful lakefront."

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**Budget amendments reflect Erie needs**

HARRISBURG, April 24 - Through amendments offered to the state's spending plan by state Rep. Italo Cappabianca, D-Erie, the economy would grow and health-care and educational services would be made available to everyone in the community.

Three amendments penned by Cappabianca were included in the state's General Fund budget proposal as offered by colleagues in his absence. All three drew funds from other line items, therefore the investments will not cost taxpayers any additional money.

One of Cappabianca's amendments would appropriate \$200,000 for health-care services at St. Paul's Neighborhood Free Clinic in Erie. The clinic provides free medical and dental care to those in the community who otherwise could not afford such services.

Since 1993, the clinic has seen nearly 20,000 patients.

"This clinic saves lives," Cappabianca said. "Without the wonderful volunteers who staff it and annual contributions, the patients who utilize the free clinic would be forced to either forgo health and dental care, or they would be added to a growing number of unreimbursed cases at our hospitals."

Cappabianca also amended the budget to include a \$300,000 appropriation for neighborhood services in northwestern Pennsylvania. These funds would be directed to the Greater Erie Community Action Committee, which works to eliminate poverty or causes of poverty in the Greater Erie area.

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The committee provides employment education and training opportunities, services for senior citizens, early childhood and family education, drug and alcohol treatment and prevention and community services.

"From its modest beginnings in 1964 as the Greater Erie Anti-Poverty Action Committee and one staff member, GECAC has continued to grow and change to meet the needs of the Erie community," Cappabianca said. "Today, the committee operates out of 29 sites in Erie County, providing a wide range of programs that cooperate with many community agencies and the private sector in providing a comprehensive network of services."

A final amendment sponsored by Cappabianca would invest an additional \$3.5 million for PennPorts, restoring funding to the previous 2000-01 level.

"PennPorts focuses on economic enhancement of ports in Philadelphia, Erie and Pittsburgh," Cappabianca said. "These funds generate port and shipping-related jobs, as well as assist Pennsylvania firms in exporting their products."

The Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority was established to promote commerce and shipping through the Port of Erie. The port has a deep-water dock that is capable of shipping and receiving any commodity through the St. Lawrence Seaway. Additionally, a ship repair/ship building facility and a 1,250-foot dry dock is available, as well as public access points of recreation.

The House added more than 200 amendments to the state's proposed \$20.8 billion General Fund budget. Once the House passes Senate Bill 1, it will go back to the Senate for consideration.

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### **Senate passes Cappabianca bill**

HARRISBURG, May 3 - Pedestrian and bicycle safety took a step forward as Senate members offered their support of legislation introduced by state Rep. Italo Cappabianca, D-Erie.

Cappabianca, who is Democratic chairman of the House Transportation Committee, introduced legislation (H.B. 157) that would reauthorize the Pennsylvania Pedalcycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

"This committee gives a voice to pedestrians and bicyclists," Cappabianca said. "Pennsylvania has wisely utilized federal transportation funding to develop a network of recreational trails throughout the state. These linear parks add to the state's tourism appeal, while providing Pennsylvanians with new recreational opportunities."

ISTEA and TEA-21, the two latest federal transportation funding laws, made money available to states to build recreational trails. Pennsylvania has aggressively used these dollars and the advisory committee has been helpful in developing good projects for trail users across the state.

The advisory committee, first established in 1995, advises the administration, the legislature and state agencies of issues facing pedestrians and bicyclists. The committee will focus on providing opportunities for the use of alternative modes of travel that can co-exist with the present transportation system.

Cappabianca's legislation was needed to reauthorize the committee, because under the original law the committee expired on Dec. 31, 2000.

Senate members amended the bill to clarify the appointment process. The bill now returns to the House for concurrence.

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**Visit Cappabianca's Web site for online license renewals**

HARRISBURG; May 11 - With a click of a computer mouse, Pennsylvanians will be able to renew their driver's license, photo identification or vehicle registration, according to state Rep. Italo Cappabianca, D-Erie.

"This is a new service for Pennsylvanians that utilizes the latest technology to streamline the renewal process," Cappabianca said. "All it takes is a home computer and a credit card and you can renew your registration, license or identification at any time of the day or night, from the comfort of your home."

The service will be offered to Pennsylvanians beginning May 16. To access the system, computer users should visit Cappabianca's Web site at [www.pahouse.com/cappabianca](http://www.pahouse.com/cappabianca) and click on "Additional Links." Visitors will be directed to the "Driver and Vehicle Online Services" within the Pennsylvania PowerPort.

A credit card will be needed to complete the renewal. A temporary license or registration that is valid for 15 days then can be printed.

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### **Cappabianca bill signed into law**

HARRISBURG, May 18 - A bill introduced by state Rep. Italo Cappabianca, D-Erie, that gives pedestrians and bicyclists a voice in Harrisburg was signed into law Thursday.

Cappabianca's legislation (Act 8 of 2001) reauthorizes the Pennsylvania Pedalcycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, which advises the administration, the legislature and state agencies on issues facing pedestrians and bicyclists. The legislation was needed to reauthorize the committee, which was first established in 1995, because under the original law the committee expired on Dec. 31, 2000.

"This is perfect timing for the reauthorizing of this committee, as people clean up their bicycles and make plans to visit local parks and utilize trails throughout the state," Cappabianca said.

"Pedestrians and bicyclists are a growing population in Pennsylvania and their needs should be included in discussions concerning transportation issues."

According to Cappabianca, Pennsylvania has used federal transportation funding aggressively to develop a network of recreational trails that add a new facet to the travel and tourism industry, as well as affording Pennsylvanians an innovative system of linear parks.

The committee has worked with the state to develop good projects for trail users across the Commonwealth and will now be able to continue looking at innovative ways to use alternative modes of transportation that can co-exist with the present transportation system.

"This committee is just one more shining example of why Pennsylvania continues to be a transportation leader," said Cappabianca, who is Democratic chairman of the House Transportation Committee. "The future of transportation is being written today by committees just like this one."

"Working together we will form a strong transportation network that will meet the needs of Pennsylvanians, visitors and business and industry today and tomorrow."

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### **A fitting tribute to Cappabianca**

HARRISBURG, June 4 - Throughout his career, state Rep. Italo Cappabianca, D-Erie, worked hard to further economic development and tell the state what a jewel they had in Erie. Those efforts included giving credit to those who strove equally hard to advance the city and the county.

Cappabianca would have been pleased today as legislation that he had amended to honor a local community leader passed the House on concurrence.

House members passed a transportation bill (H.B. 103) that would rename a number of highways and bridges throughout the Commonwealth, including the creation of the Charles D. Buzzanco Interchange in Erie County.

Cappabianca fought to have the interchange of Interstate 79 and Interstate 90 in Erie County named in honor of the late Buzzanco, who was the former business manager of the Local Union 603 of the Laborer's International Union of North America and a leader in the Erie community.

During his career, Buzzanco developed a scholarship fund for Local Union 603 to allow students to attend Edinboro University. He was very influential in the labor movement, serving as business manager for 13 years.

Buzzanco served on the Board of the Erie Civic Center, worked with the Erie Conference on Community Development and promoted development in Erie. He also was actively involved in community service, helping to construct the Ninth and Parade Street firehouse and as a member of the Wolves Club where we was in charge of scholarship funding.

Cappabianca admired Buzzanco's efforts and during previous legislative sessions had offered legislation to honor him. This time, as one of his final legislative initiatives, Cappabianca appears to have been successful in creating a living memorial. Before the interchange can be designated, the governor will have to sign the bill into law.

Cappabianca passed away Monday, May 28, following a two-year battle against cancer.

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