

# Congratulations to Newest Eagle Scout Jacob Franzo

By Senator Rosemary Brown

I had the privilege of honoring and congratulating Jacob Franzo on achieving the impressive rank of Eagle Scout!

Earning the rank of Eagle is no small feat. It represents years of hard work, leadership, service, and dedication to the values of the Boy Scouts of America. Jacob's accomplishments speak to his character and the strong foundation he's built for his future.

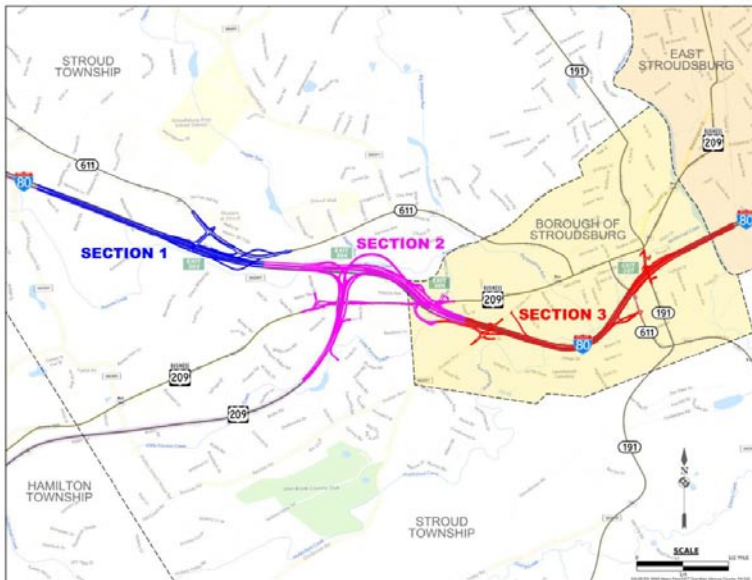


# Interstate 80 Construction Project Overview

By Senator Rosemary Brown

As many of you know, the I-80 Expansion Project has been an ongoing topic of discussion in our region for several years. With final design plans now approved and construction moving closer, I want to provide a clear update on what this project entails, why it is necessary, and what residents can expect as we move forward. The project will reconstruct and widen Interstate 80 from Exit 303 to Exit 308, expanding the highway to three lanes in each direction and including redesigned interchanges, improved ramps and access points, and modernized safety features.

I-80 was originally built in the 1960s to carry about 10,000 vehicles per day. Now, it carries more than 80,000 vehicles daily with 22% of them trucks. By 2030–2040, projections show traffic increasing to 90,000–100,000 vehicles per day. This stretch of highway no longer meets modern safety and design standards and consistently experiences crash rates above the statewide average.



This section has even been designated a Safety Corridor due to the high number of accidents. Between 2008 and 2012, the 3.45-mile segment now slated for reconstruction saw 239 reported crashes; 43% involved fixed objects and 31% were rear-end crashes. These patterns are typical of congested roadways with outdated designs.

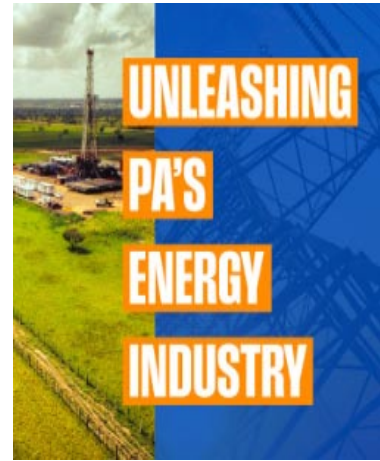
As this major investment moves forward, I will continue to keep our community informed. If you want more information on this project, you can watch an episode of my legislative report with Transportation Secretary Mike Carroll.

# Unleashing PA's Energy Industry

By State Rep. Ann Flood

House and Senate Republicans joined union and industry leaders last week to celebrate Pennsylvania's departure from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), as well as landmark permitting reforms that, together, will create renewed opportunities to grow our energy industry and economy.

RGGI is a multi-state pact that would have added more than \$1 billion in new electricity taxes on families and job creators in the Commonwealth. While it never fully took effect, the mere threat of it caused Pennsylvania to lose out on 22,000 direct energy-related jobs and nearly \$8 billion in economic development in recent years.



In addition to freeing the Commonwealth from RGGI, the 2025-26 state budget agreement adopted by the General Assembly and signed by the governor last week removes further impediments to economic growth by streamlining key permitting processes, providing both predictability and accountability for industries looking to invest in our Commonwealth.

These powerful policy changes bring the certainty and stability needed to encourage new and expanded energy investment, generate new job opportunities, stabilize the electric grid and lower consumer energy prices for Pennsylvania.

# Lehigh Valley Will Provide the Eats for Many Thanksgiving Feasts

By Paul Muschick

LEHIGH VALLEY - Lehigh Valley will be the source of the meal that's gobbled down at many Thanksgiving tables this year, all the way to the White House.

Among the top 15% of U.S. manufacturing markets, the Lehigh Valley is a hub for the production of food and beverages, including some of the staples for holiday feasts.

**Let's Talk Turkey**

Jaindl Farms, based in North Whitehall Township, produces more than 840,000 turkeys every year. A Jaindl bird has been served at the White House for nearly 50 consecutive years, selected for that honor by the National Turkey Federation.

**Pass The Veggies**

There were 823 farms in the Lehigh Valley in 2022, the most recent data available from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Nearly 95,000 acres of crops were harvested on those farms.



**Fill Your Glass ... With Cranberry Juice**

Ocean Spray's 300,000-square-foot bottling plant in Upper Macungie Township produces 42% of the company's bottled products.

**Roll out the Breads**

The Bimbo Bakeries plant in Upper Macungie Township produces a variety of bread products sold under brand names such as Entenmann's Sara Lee, Arnold, and Stroehmann.

Bakerly produces brioche breads, rolls, and buns, and pastries, at its facility, known as the bakerly barn, in Forks Township.