

**Testimony before the  
Pennsylvania State Senate Committee on Transportation  
Wednesday, August 21, 2013  
A.W. Beattie Career Center, 9600 Babcock Blvd, Allison Park, PA**

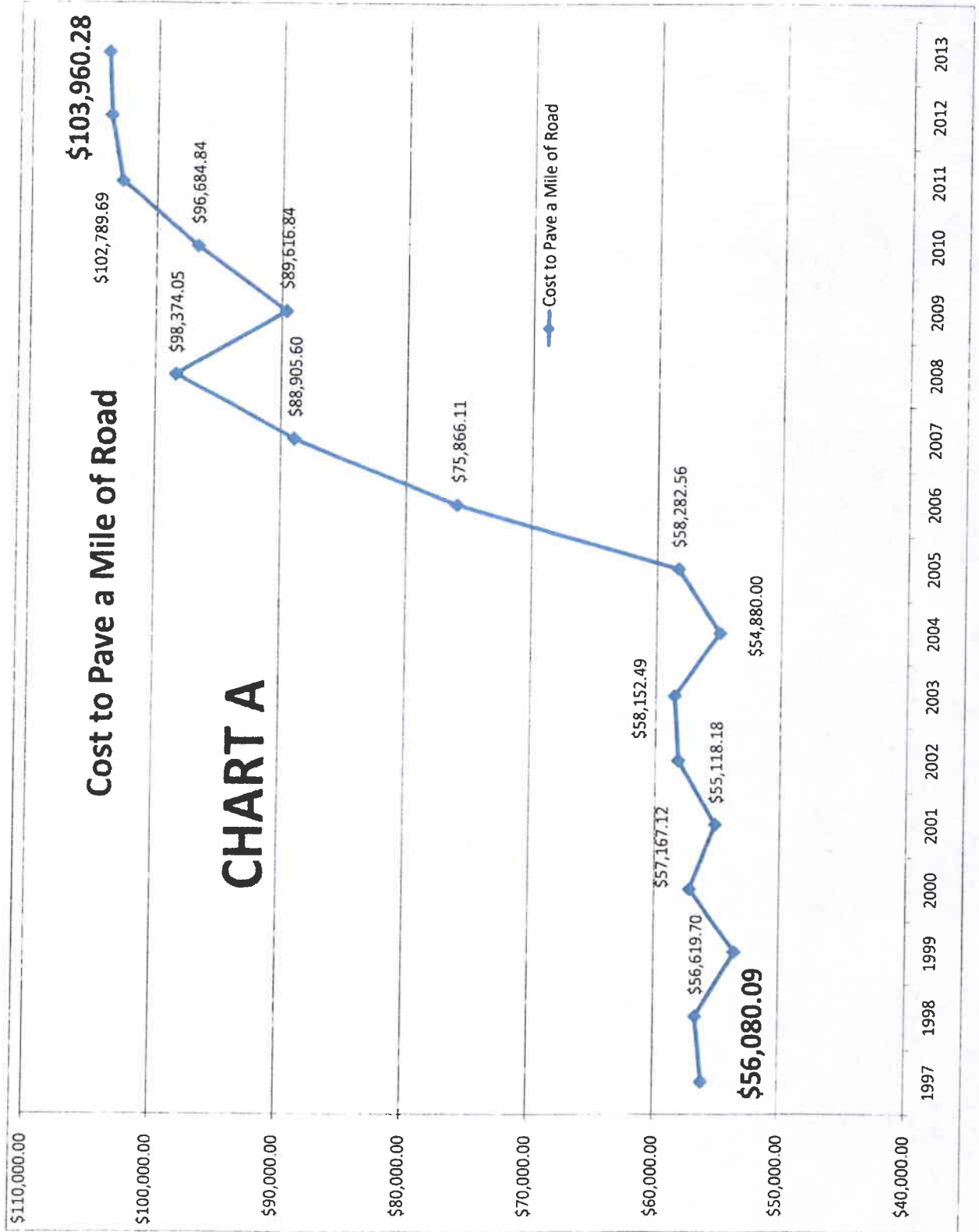
Good morning Senators, and thank you for providing Jerry Andree, Township Manager and myself, John Trant, the opportunity to share with you our views on the transportation issue. As the Chief Strategy Officer for Cranberry Township, I assist in the development of public policy to ensure the long term fiscal health and sustainability of our community. The lack of funding to properly maintain our highways and bridges and the lack of capacity improvement projects are serious public policy issues that are threatening future economic growth and job creation in the region. We therefore express our sincere appreciation to this Committee for your efforts to gather additional public input and to advance the necessary legislation to avert this ongoing crisis that is affecting the entire state.

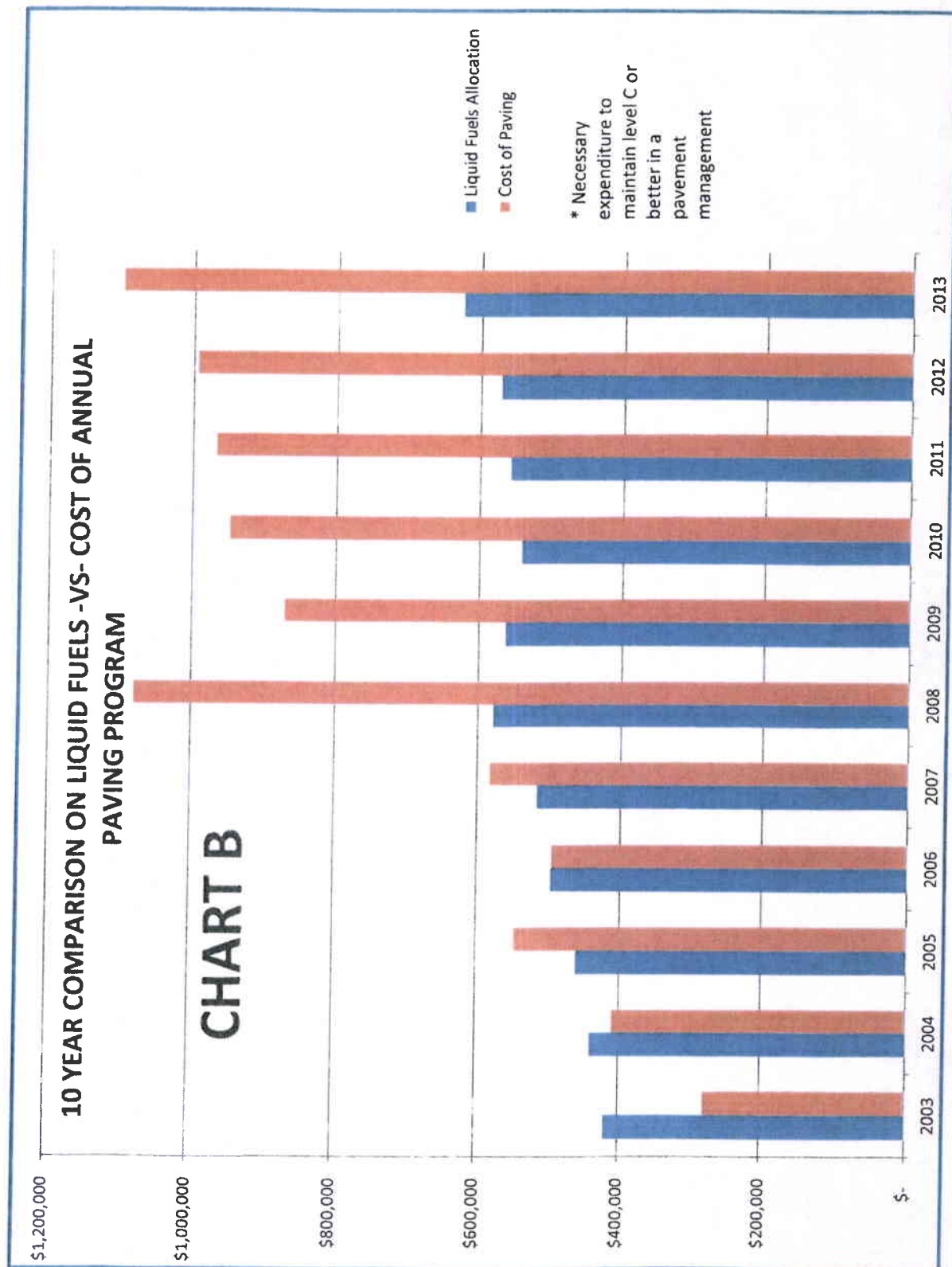
We would like to begin by thanking our State Senator, Randy Vulakovich, his staff, and the other legislators who are supporting meaningful long-term solutions that will fund transportation projects. Senator Vulakovich has committed himself to fully understand the importance of transportation within his District and has spent considerable time with the officials of Cranberry Township, one of the fastest growing areas in the nation, to better understand how Cranberry Township manages our transportation infrastructure. The Senator

has been a steadfast supporter on the importance of fully funding transportation infrastructure needs and its direct relationship to economic vitality.

The importance of comprehensive transportation funding is highlighted by the need for infrastructure to keep pace with economic development opportunities that bring jobs to our region. In addition to adequately maintaining state highways and assuring the public that our bridges are safe, capacity improvement projects are needed to move employees to and from key employers in our community such as Westinghouse, Mine Safety Appliances, Alcoa, Verizon, Coventry Health Care, Rex Energy, Talisman Energy, Rue21 and another 1,100 businesses providing over 20,000 jobs in our community. In addition to the variety of existing quality employers located in Cranberry Township that provide family sustaining jobs, there are more seeking to locate in our area. Those jobs will not be created without adding capacity to our existing roads through enhanced funding. Additional funding to PennDot is also necessary to offset the devastating effects of Act 44 that has severely limited capacity improvement projects and burdens the Turnpike users with increasing rates to fund PennDot projects across the state that are not sustainable. Cranberry Township alone has identified nearly \$132M worth of transportation enhancement projects that will be needed over the next 20 years to support our anticipated growth.

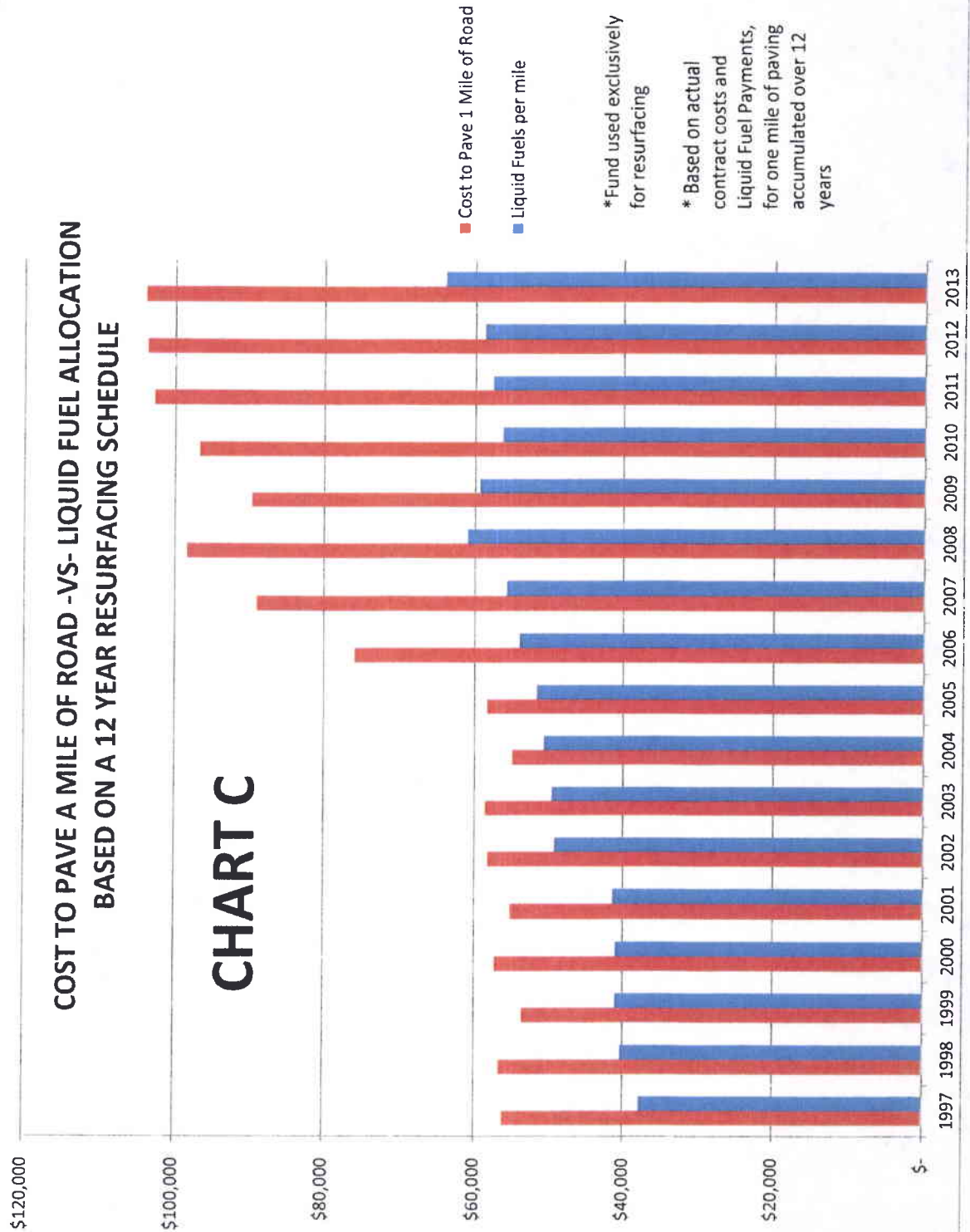
We also applaud and congratulate you on your recognition of local government's escalating costs in maintaining locally owned roads, through an increase in local government's share of the Liquid Fuels Tax . The current funding levels are significantly below what is needed to maintain our local roadway systems. Decisions are being made to either defer needed maintenance projects, which will result in significantly higher future costs, or to cover those costs through our only other source of revenue for road maintenance, real estate taxes. This is also a major deviation from our historical record of supporting road maintenance through user fees such as the Liquid Fuels Tax. Jerry will explain the financial impact this is having on our community, which is demonstrated with the following charts:





# **COST TO PAVE A MILE OF ROAD -VS- LIQUID FUEL ALLOCATION BASED ON A 12 YEAR RESURFACING SCHEDULE**

## **CHART C**



In conclusion, we urge the General Assembly to heed the advice of two Transportation Advisory Committees, one appointed by former Governor Rendell and the other by Governor Corbett that confirmed our Commonwealth is facing a growing crisis in Transportation at both the local and state levels. Both non-partisan Committees presented detailed technical information documenting this crisis, and that information has not been challenged; we have only allowed ourselves to become challenged with allowing this important public policy issue to be inter-twined with other equally important public policy issues. It is now time to separate the issues and address each one independently. We again thank this Committee for your leadership in advancing a meaningful solution to fund our critical transportation infrastructure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and we are pleased to answer any additional questions you may have for us.

Respectfully submitted:

Jerry A. Andree, Township Manager

John T. Trant, Jr., Chief Strategy Officer

Cranberry Township, Butler County