

Try Out Public Transportation

By State Rep. Joe Emrick

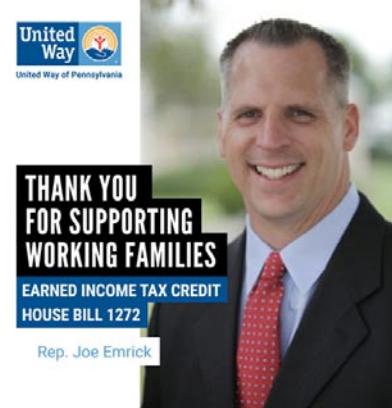
BETHLEHEM - The Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority (LANTA) provides a menu of public transportation options to residents of the district. Eight LANTA bus routes operate in the district, including LANTA's high frequency Enhanced Bus Service (EBS) Blue Line. Additionally, LANTA Bus routes 106, 108, 216, 217, 220, 312, and 319 serve various destinations and corridors, along with LANTAFlex routes 502 – Slate Belt and 506- Nazareth. LANTAFlex is a reservation-based, curb-to-curb service that is open to the general public within defined service zones. Seniors ride LANTA Bus and LANTAFlex services for free with a Senior Transit Identification card, and persons with disabilities can apply for a Reduced Fare card.

For those who cannot use the bus, LANTA also provides door-to-door paratransit services through its LANTAVan service. Seniors over 65 can ride the LANTAVan service under the Shared Ride for Seniors program. Persons with disabilities may be eligible for LANTAVan service through the Americans with Disabilities Act Paratransit program and the state-sponsored Persons with Disabilities program. In addition, persons enrolled in Medical Assistance (Medicaid) may be eligible for reimbursement of car mileage or bus fare expenses to and from medical appointments, and in some cases can be eligible for paratransit service to access medical appointments.

To find out more about any of these services, programs, and fare discounts visit lantabus.com or call LANTA at 888-253-8333.



Relieving the Tax Burden

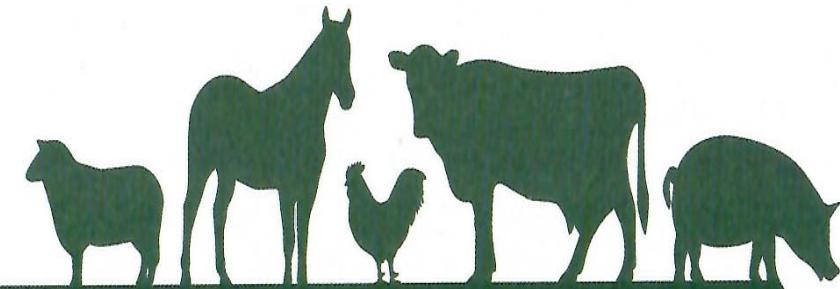


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BETHLEHEM - This week, I voted yes on HB1272, a bill that passed the House, which proposes an elective, refundable 25% Earned Income Tax Credit for families living paycheck to paycheck. The United Way of Pennsylvania (UWP) refers to these working individuals and families as ALICE, Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed.

This tax credit will help families struggling to make ends meet pay for necessities such as housing, food or clothing. This program will also help Pennsylvania in the long run. Per the UWP fiscal impact report, "Implementing a State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) in Pennsylvania: A Benefit-Cost Analysis," for every \$1 spent on a state EITC by the Commonwealth, Pennsylvania receives \$4 back in economic growth and saves \$3 dollars in social spending.

I am proud to support this bill and will continue to support legislation that will help working families in need.



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