

INSIDE:

**MOVING THE
PHILADELPHIA
REGION FORWARD**

Multi-million Dollar
Investment in
Economic Development
Projects Means

**MORE
JOBS**

**MOVING
PENNSYLVANIA
FORWARD**

Major Legislative
Package Creates

**80,000
MORE
JOBS**



Serving the 7th Senatorial District

JANUARY 2012

**State Senator
VINCENT HUGHES**
Reports to the People

MOVING THE

Philadelphia

REGION FORWARD



**There is new investment.
People are working.
Communities are growing.**

*B*ut, it's still not enough — too many people are hurting and we need more jobs, better schools and more investment.

That's not to diminish the effort that has already been made. Since this spring, officials from Washington, D.C. to Harrisburg and in City Hall have been working to stoke investments and ignite economic development in our neighborhoods.

◆ **WEST PHILADELPHIA**

New West Philadelphia High School

This \$66 million 'State of the Art' facility is equipped with new classrooms, laboratory facilities, gymnasium and other amenities to provide a quality learning environment for our children.



Joining Senator Hughes at the new West Philadelphia High School ribbon cutting were (r-l) Mayor Michael Nutter; Bishop Audrey Bronson, Black Clergy of Philadelphia; Principal Mary Dean, West Philadelphia High School; Senator Hughes; Dr. Leroy David Nunery II, Acting CEO & Superintendent for the School District of Philadelphia; state Rep. James Roebuck; and Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell.



◆ NORTH PHILADELPHIA

\$12 Million for Major Project in Hunting Park

Bakers Centre is projected to create 1000 jobs. Located on the old Tasty Baking Company site, this 220,000 square-foot shopping complex is located on 30 acres encompassing Hunting Park Avenue, Fox Street, and Roberts Avenue.



Senator Hughes recently presented a \$12 million state grant to the \$60 million Bakers Centre retail complex project in the Hunting Park West section of the city at the former headquarters of the famed Tasty Baking Company.

In September, I presented a \$12 million state economic development check to the Bakers Centre retail project.

This \$60 million project will boost Philadelphia's economy with approximately 350 construction jobs and 700 permanent jobs. The anchor tenant will be a 71,000 square-foot Brown's Family Shop-Rite Supermarket.

We commend developers US Realty Associates and Metro Development Company for their willingness to adapt an inclusive community driven vision and making a commitment to this deserving neighborhood.



The new Bakers Centre retail project is an example of how private sector investment coupled with state dollars can generate opportunities even amid periods of economic uncertainty.



◆ WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP H2O Program Helps Deal with Flooding

The McCarthy Park water basin helps drain various roads in the area. The state's H2O program provided \$636,485 for the rehabilitation.

In 2009, after a major rain event which caused significant flood damage throughout the region, I toured Whitemarsh Township to get a closer look at the problem and determine how to solve the issues facing the region.

Along with me on the tour were several township leaders, including Bob Hart and Sarah Erlbaum, and representatives from U.S. Senator Bob Casey's regional office.

We viewed the significant damage in several areas throughout the township and met with many residents who suffered significant flood damage.

One of the areas that we focused on was the need for improvements in the water basin at McCarthy Park. By making improvements in the water basin, the flow of the stormwater can be better managed, thereby reducing the amount of water runoff into the homes of nearby residents.

Pennsylvania's H2O Program was designed in such a way that allowed the township to apply for financial assistance to support the needed work there. The township received a grant of \$636,485 to help with the improvements to the McCarthy Park water basin by creating a detention basin.

After another major rain event this past summer, which also caused significant flooding, we came back to the neighborhood and were pleased to see that none of the homes in this neighborhood have flooded since improvements were made to the basin.

There still remains much more work that needs to be done to alleviate the flood problems that occur in Whitemarsh Township. It will take a partnership at all levels of government, along with an engaged constituency, to solve all of the issues. It will also take everyone working together to make sure that important programs like Pennsylvania's H2O program, and many other programs — both state and federal — are appropriately funded, so that the dollars are in place to help out local communities who can't fund these solutions on their own. The McCarthy Park detention basin initiative, is a great example of how these programs can make a difference, and why they should be supported.



Above is the McCarthy Park water basin which is used to drain area roads during heavy rains.

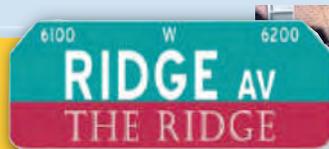


Senator Hughes has toured areas of Whitemarsh Township that have been impacted by flooding.

◆ ROXBOROUGH Street Improvements on Ridge Avenue

A \$2.2 million Streetscape along Ridge Avenue will provide opportunities for more development along this corridor. Congressman Chaka Fattah (federal), Senator Vincent Hughes (state) and Councilman Curtis Jones (city) provided funding for these improvements.

Breaking ground at the new streetscape on Ridge Avenue are (l-r) Gina Snyder, East Falls Development Corporation; state Rep. Pam Delissio; Karen Fegely, Commerce Department; Councilman Curtis Jones; and Marcella Daniels, chief-of-staff to Senator Hughes.



◆ **MOVING PENNSYLVANIA FORWARD :** Legislative Package entitled **PA WORKS NOW** Could Put 80,000 Pennsylvanians to Work IMMEDIATELY!

In September, my Senate Democratic colleagues and I unveiled a comprehensive jobs plan that offered solid solutions to the real issues facing Pennsylvania's citizens.

The plan, called "PA Works NOW," would leverage private investment and use existing state resources to put people to work immediately. Its investment strategy would create more than 80,000 new jobs, spurring an immediate economic boost. It would make critical, long term investments in infrastructure rehabilitation to create new opportunities for future growth and development.

Our proposal would create:

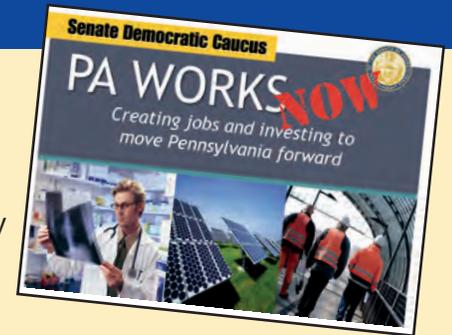
- Pennsylvania Investment Bank—which would finance transportation projects, water, sewer and other public utility needs;
- Green Building Investments;
- Information and Communication Technology Initiatives.

The plan would include tax incentives to encourage employer supported day care alternatives, improve school-to-work transition, youth summer job program, PA training program for Marcellus Shale, incentives to

grow women and minority owned businesses, and green jobs employment training programs.

For more information about **PA WORKS NOW**, go to my website at www.SenatorHughes.com.

Senator Hughes stands with Senate Democratic colleagues Senators Christine Tartaglione, Tim Solobay, Jay Costa, John Blake, Richard Kasunic and Anthony H. Williams during the unveiling of the Senate Democrats' 'PA Works Now Plan'.



◆ **Short on Shale . . . We Can Do Better!**

The Marcellus Shale gas play that stretches from Southwestern Pennsylvania across the northern tier holds great potential for the citizens of Pennsylvania. This is a Pennsylvania resource and all Pennsylvania should benefit.

Senate Democrats have acted responsibly in proposing an extraction tax that would raise sufficient revenues to meet the needs of Pennsylvania. However, the Republican-controlled House and Senate and Gov. Corbett are settling on an extraction tax rate that will be among the lowest in the country with one of the lowest revenue yields.

We can do better. There should be a responsible shale extraction tax, local control over zoning and strong environmental controls on drilling that protects our water systems. Funds from shale can be used to rebuild our roads and bridges, fund environmental clean ups and pay for improvements to our mass transit systems. It has the potential to help SEPTA and other public transportation systems. **Contact the Governor NOW at 717-787-2500 or email him at Governor@pa.gov and let him know that Pennsylvania needs our fair share of fees from Marcellus Shale drilling.**

In Senate debate, I offered an alternative plan that would institute this type of tax and regulatory system on the gas drilling industry. I will continue to push to develop a responsible tax and tough environmental controls.





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◆ World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day is held on December 1st each year and is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV and to commemorate people who have died from HIV/AIDS. World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day and the first one was held in 1988. Globally, more than 33.3 million people are living with HIV/AIDS. More than 25 million people between 1981 and 2007 have died from the virus, making it one of the most destructive pandemics in history.

For more information, visit
www.senatorhughes.com or www.testtogether.org



Sen. Hughes joins Rashidah Abdul Khabeer at the Circle of Care—HIV/AIDS Testing Event at 50th and Lancaster Ave.



◆ Sen. Hughes Accepts 'Civics Award'

Philadelphia Young Playwrights celebrated 'Write On! 2011' at World Cafe Live. Students performed their original works and Senator Hughes received the '2011 Civics Award'. Pictured (l to r): Senator Hughes, Kathleen Melville, Kris McCormick (2011 Adele Magner Memorial Awardees) and Steve Highsmith, program emcee.

◆ HELP A NEEDY FAMILY:

Support the SHARE Food Program of Pennsylvania

In these tough economic times, donations are down and the need for food has risen dramatically.

Please support the SHARE Program. Visit their website at

www.sharefoodprogram.org
or by calling (215) 223-2220.

