

# Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

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## PRT weighs request to divert funds

Under plan, transit agency would use capital projects money to avoid steep service cuts

By Ford Turner  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

HARRISBURG — In the midst of a 70-day-old state budget impasse, an opportunity that presented itself on Monday might allow Pittsburgh Regional Transit to avoid a planned 35% service cut and a fare increase.

Gov. Josh Shapiro — who described negotiations for the long-overdue budget as being down to the “minutiae” — directed his administration to allow the Philadelphia region’s transit agency, SEPTA, to use capital projects

money to fund operations.

PRT spokesperson Adam Brandolph said it was considering making a request for a similar waiver and that it would only be a stopgap measure. But Sen. Jay Costa of Allegheny County, the top Democrat in the chamber, said that if the waiver was sought and received, it would free up enough money to avert the cuts and sustain operations at PRT for two years.

Neither Mr. Brandolph nor Mr. Costa said exactly how much money PRT might seek if it asked for a waiver. But approval of the SEPTA

**STATE BUDGET**

waiver will let that agency use up to \$394 million in capital assistance funds for operations.

“I am encouraging it,” Mr. Costa said of the potential PRT waiver request. “Whatever would avert the route reductions and the fare increases.”

The state has been without a budget since July 1. Pressure is building on Mr. Shapiro, a Democrat, and leaders of the Republican-run Senate and Democratic-led House to end a stalemate that has stopped billions of dollars in payments to entities around the state, from schools

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## City schools see impact from budget impasse

By Megan Tomasic  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

A more than two-month-long state budget impasse is leading to financial impacts at Pittsburgh Public Schools, officials said Monday, causing additional issues for a district already grappling with how to solve a possible budget deficit.

During Monday’s business and finance meeting, Chief Financial Officer Ronald Joseph detailed steps the district has taken to ensure things such as payroll and benefits continue to be funded despite state leaders not releasing vital dollars to school districts across the state as disagreements

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## A CALL OF DUTY



Robert Morris University students Eileen Adams, of Sewickley, left, and Ken Heitger, of Freedom, helped put 2,977 American flags — representing those killed during the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001 — for the 9/11 Remembrance Project on Monday outside of the Edward A. Nicholson Center on the Moon campus. Ms. Adams is a former tech sergeant in the Air Force and current reservist, and Mr. Heitger is a retired Army sergeant first class.

## TOP COURT LIFTS CURBS ON L.A. STOPS

Clears sweeping federal immigration operations

By Lindsay Whitehurst  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday cleared the way for federal agents to conduct sweeping immigration operations for now in Los Angeles, the latest victory for President Donald Trump’s administration at the high court.

The conservative majority lifted a restraining order from a judge who found that roving patrols were conducting indiscriminate stops in and around L.A. The order had barred immigration agents from stopping people solely based on their race, language, job or location.

The court’s 6-3 decision followed a pattern of at least temporarily allowing some of the Republican administration’s harshest policies, while leaving room for the possibility of a different outcome after the legal case plays out fully.

The net effect, meanwhile, has Trump pushing ahead in many of the areas he considers most critical.

The majority did not explain its reasoning, as is typical on the court’s emergency docket. But Justice Brett Kavanaugh said the lower-court judge had gone too far in restricting how Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents can carry out brief stops for questioning.

“The prospect of such after-the-fact judicial second-guessing and contempt

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DHS operation has Chicago on alert as ICE launches “Blitz,” **A-6**

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## Dick’s completes deal to acquire Foot Locker

By Adam Babetski  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Dick’s Sporting Goods Inc. has officially closed a \$2.4 billion deal to acquire Foot Locker, one of the world’s largest shoe retailers.

Findlay-based Dick’s will take over Foot Locker’s 2,400-plus stores in 20 countries, ballooning its portfolio to more than 3,200

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PNC strikes deal to buy FirstBank, widening its Western reach, **A-10**

total locations. The deal was first reported in May.

Dick’s will continue to maintain Foot Locker’s existing brands, including Kid’s Foot Locker and

Champs Sports, a sports apparel and equipment chain.

Lauren Hobart, president and CEO of Dick’s, said in a release that the acquisition will fuel the company’s positive momentum.

“As a combined company, Dick’s and Foot Locker will create a global platform that will redefine the sports retail industry and unlock value for both companies,

our brand partners, our teammates, our communities and our shareholders,” she said.

Dick’s is reshuffling its leadership following the deal. Its executive chairman, Ed Stack, will oversee Foot Locker in tandem with Ann Freeman, a former Nike executive who will serve as the

SEE **DEAL**, PAGE A-2

## Satellite broadband linked to Pa.’s internet connection plan

By Kris B. Mamula  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Pennsylvania’s plan to give every home and business a speedy internet connection was submitted to the federal government for funding by Friday’s deadline.

But there’s a hitch: If approved, the state will only get \$793.4 million, or about a third less than the federal government first promised.

The reason? Satellite broadband,

which has been heralded by the Broadband Communications Association of Pennsylvania and other groups as a lower-cost option to get the internet to places where it’s too costly to string fiber optic cable.

Fiber optic cable connections come with higher upfront equipment and installation costs, but monthly fees of \$70 to \$90, compared to lower installation costs and \$110 to \$120 per month for satellite service.

But federal backing for satellite internet connections may not be good news for people living in rural Pennsylvania, according to Sascha Meinrath, a broadband and public policy researcher and director of the X-Lab at Penn State University.

“It’s worse service for higher prices for rural Pennsylvania,” he said. “For eligibility purposes, satellite is not broadband.”

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**LAKE EFFECT** A paddleboarder makes their way up North Park Lake on Monday. Temperatures will rise to 75 degrees on Tuesday after morning fog. Weather report, **B-12**.