BRIDGE: State could get $3.3B

For bridges operated by municipalities and counties, the state would pay 60 percent of the cost of replacing or rehabilitating the bridges over the next two years, according to a Senate Republican spokesman.

With hundreds of structurally deficient or functionally obsolete off-system bridges slated for replacement or rehabilitation, the state aid would amount to some $3.3 billion over the next five years. According to state Transportation Secretary John E. Dougherty, about 5,000 off-system bridges remain in Pennsylvania, compared to about 2,000 in the 1970s.

"For too many bridges in Pennsylvania and across the country are notoriously deficien-
cient," Mr. Casey said in a statement. "Our senators will improve safety and provide our communities with a connection, which creates and sustains economic growth."

Mr. Joe Scaletta and other leaders of the state Department of Transportation have been pushing for these types of improvements for the past several years. Although specific bridges have not been named, Pennsylvania lawmakers have expressed confidence that the Senate would be able to knock down the latest bridge opposition by establishing a "de-identified revenue stream."

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