

Opinion: Gas tax to the rescue?

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THE RECORD

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GOVERNOR Christie's abrupt pivot on increasing the state's gasoline tax — from “not on my

deter new commercial development and
punish auto commuters whose productivity has already been compromised by frequent time consuming and frustrating traffic congestion.

Christie is mindful, also, of the job-creation potential involved in the transportation capital program supported by the trust fund.

Constructing, rehabilitating and repairing roads and bridges are labor intensive endeavors, providing thousands of jobs — many of them long term — at a time when the state continues to struggle toward full economic recovery.

A healthy trust fund with a stable funding source is invaluable to those who make the argument that public works projects can and should be used to energize a sluggish economy. History, they point out, is replete with examples to support such an approach.

If Christie is committed to a trust fund renewal, his choices to do so have narrowed and will almost certainly involve raising revenue while, at the same time, implementing administrative