

# Light-rail plans get a boost from U.S.

Phila. waterfront and South Jersey projects could be in line for aid under a policy change.

By Paul Nussbaum  
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Proposed rail projects on the Philadelphia waterfront and in South Jersey got a significant boost yesterday when federal transportation officials announced plans to rescind Bush administration restrictions on transit spending.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said the Obama administration wanted greater flexibility to pay for transit projects that could provide an economic boost or benefit the environment.

That could make it easier to get federal money for a proposed \$1.5 billion light-rail line from Camden to Gloucester County and for a \$500 million light-rail line along the Philadelphia waterfront.

The Delaware River Port Authority, which is planning the projects, had acknowledged they likely would not qualify for federal aid under existing rules.

Projects being developed by SEPTA and NJ Transit could See **TRANSIT** on A13

# Singer Teddy Pendergrass dies at age 59

By Dan DeLuca  
INQUIRER MUSIC CRITIC

Teddy Pendergrass, the gruff-voiced Philadelphia soul powerhouse who belted out hits like "The Love I Lost" and "If You Don't Know Me By Now" as lead singer of Harold Melvin & the Blue Notes in the 1970s for Philadelphia International Records and went on to forge an influential solo career as a seductive bedroom balladeer, has died. He was 59.

The singer's son, Teddy Pendergrass II, said his father died yesterday at Bryn Mawr Hospital. He underwent colon cancer surgery eight months ago. Pendergrass II said the singer, who had been paralyzed from the waist down after he crashed his Rolls-Royce on Lincoln See **PENDERGRASS** on A13



Teddy Pendergrass

"Parliament has collapsed. The tax office has collapsed. Schools have collapsed. Hospitals have collapsed. There are a lot of schools that have a lot of dead people in them."

Haitian President Rene Preval

# A Country in Ruins



Haitians pass destroyed buildings in Port-au-Prince. Tuesday's quake struck both shantytowns and the National Palace. Tens of thousands, maybe more, were feared dead. Among the dead were the capital's Roman Catholic archbishop.

THONY BELIZAIRE / AFP, Getty Images

# Area Haitians await word of loved ones, plan for aid

By Michael Matza  
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

At Radio Vision Celeste yesterday, the programming went beyond hard news from Haiti's shattered capital, Port-au-Prince.

For the estimated 90,000 Haitian immigrants in Southeastern Pennsylvania and South Jersey, the station passed on personal appeals from those desperate to learn about their loved ones, using shortwave radio communications with the handful of stations still in operation there.

If the person in Haiti could be lo-

ated, that message was passed back and broadcast from Radio Vision Celeste's studio in Northeast Philadelphia.

Reporter Fritz Momperousse could not immediately say how many successful connections had occurred on the Creole-language station. But he assured, "We've been so much busy."

Across the region, Haitians used tweets, Internet messages, and cell phones to try to get through.

For Gilda Jean-Louis, 50, whose sister Yolaine and brother-in-law Li-

onel live in Port-au-Prince, an answered call proved more agonizing than no connection at all.

"My daughter Dominique called and someone picked up my brother-in-law's phone," the Overbrook resident said. When Dominique asked for the couple, a stranger told her to hold on.

For 10 minutes, Dominique, 32, heard unintelligible murmurs. Then someone just hung up.

"It would have been better if we weren't able to reach anyone," said See **REGION** on A10

# Haitians' plight spurs huge U.S. relief effort

By Steven R. Hurst  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Obama dispatched troops and an air and sea flotilla yesterday to speed earthquake relief to Haiti, and governments and relief groups from around the world rushed to help with aid and rescue workers.

Obama said the world's help was critical to deal

with a "cruel and incomprehensible" tragedy.

The massive effort to alleviate the suffering of survivors kicked in as the devastation from Tuesday's magnitude-7.0 quake revealed itself. Haitian officials predicted a death total of staggering proportions.

U.S. officials were checking reports of at least three See **AID** on A12



A young quake survivor is given first aid in a shantytown near Port-au-Prince. Many governments and aid groups were sending sniffer dogs to search for victims.

MATT MAREK / American Red Cross

# Staggering losses, with death toll unknown

By Jonathan M. Katz  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Dazed survivors wandered yesterday past dead bodies in rubble-strewn streets, crying for loved ones, and rescuers searched collapsed buildings as officials feared the death toll from Haiti's devastating earthquake could reach into the tens of thousands.

The first cargo planes with food, water, medical supplies, shelter, and sniffer dogs headed to the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation a day after the magnitude-7.0 quake flattened much of the capital of two million people.

Tuesday's earthquake brought down buildings great and small — from shacks in shantytowns to President Rene Preval's gleaming white National Palace, where a dome tilted ominously above the manicured grounds.

Hospitals, schools, and the main prison collapsed. The capital's Roman Catholic archbishop was killed when his office and the main cathedral fell. The head of the U.N. peacekeeping mission was missing in the ruins of the organization's multistory headquarters.

Police officers turned their pickup trucks into ambulances to carry the injured. Student Wisnel Occilus, 24, was wedged between two other survivors in a truck bed headed to a police station. He was in an English class when the earth shook at 4:53 p.m. and the building collapsed.

"The professor is dead. Some of the students are dead, too," said Occilus, who suspected he had several broken bones. "Ev- See **HAITI** on A10

## More Coverage

- Geography alone doesn't explain Haiti's struggles. **A11.**
- As darkness falls, crowds gather in the streets — with no one to help them. **A11.**
- A nurse's aide, now living in Norristown, frantically searches for news of relatives. **A11.**
- New Jersey church members had a long night worrying about their mission workers. **B2.**
- How to help: Relief agencies seeking donations. **A12.**
- The 76ers' Dalembert fears the worst for his home country. **Sports, D1.**
- Social media succeed when other forms of communication fail. **Magazine, E1.**

## INSIDE

### FOOD

### Eat up, be well

Viewing food as medicine is as old as Hippocrates. Fads come and go. **F1.**



### WEATHER

### High 46, Low 30

Mostly sunny today. High of 50 tomorrow. Mild weather should prevail for rest of the month. Full report, **B11.**

### REGION

### Police officer killed in crash

He died in a one-vehicle accident on Kelly Drive. He was off-duty. **B1.**

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# An apology, of sorts, by bankers

Financial leaders blamed their own flawed practices for the collapse. They said easy credit also was a factor.

By Greg Gordon and Kevin G. Hall  
McCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON — The chairman and chief executive officer of investment titan Goldman Sachs Group Inc. acknowledged yesterday that his company engaged in "improper" behavior when it bet against \$40 billion of securities that it was selling to investors as safe products.

The executive, Lloyd Blankfein, made the shocking acknowledgment at the opening hearing of the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission, a 10-member panel created by Congress to look into the causes of the 2007-to-2009 economic meltdown, the worst U.S. financial crisis since the Great Depression.

He and other chief executives of the nation's most prominent banks apologized for risky behavior that led to the crisis. They acknowledged serious flaws in their economic models and business practices.

The tension at the hearing was evident from the outset.

"People are angry," commission chairman Phil Angelides said. Reports of "record profits and bonuses in the wake of receiving trillions of dollars in government assistance while so many families are struggling to stay afloat has only heightened the sense of confusion," he said.

See **BANKS** on A13



PABLO MARTÍNEZ MONSIVAIS / Associated Press  
Waiting to testify before the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission are Bank of America CEO Brian Moynihan (foreground) and JPMorgan Chase CEO James Dimon.