

PENNSYLVANIA STATE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
BUSINESS MEETING
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
APRIL 11, 2019



CALL TO ORDER:

A quarterly business meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was called to order at 10:02 a.m. on April 11, 2019, in Harrisburg, PA.

MINUTES:

ON A MOTION by Mr. Pocius and seconded by Mr. Detweiler, and unanimously approved, the Minutes of February 4, 2019, TAC Business Meeting were accepted.

Please note that these minutes are not intended to capture every individual comment, but rather to identify critical discussion points and highlights of the TAC business meetings.

CHAIR'S REMARKS:

TAC Chair, Jody Holton gave brief remarks announcing that Jim Ritzman will be retiring in June of this year. Ms. Holton read a congratulation letter written for Jim on behalf of TAC. TAC members wished Mr. Ritzman a happy retirement.

SECRETARY'S REMARKS:

Leo Bagley gave an update about the major findings of the Southeast Pennsylvania Mobility Partnership Report released early April. Mr. Bagley stated that the Southeast Partnership for Mobility is a collaboration between Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority (SEPTA) and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC) in coordination with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT). Mr. Bagley noted that the main objective of the report is to propose long term solutions to address the looming transportation funding crisis driven by changes coming to Act 44 of 2007 and a lawsuit from the Trucking Industry. Mr. Bagley mentioned that some major capital programs have already been put on hold at SEPTA and PennDOT is already gearing up for such measures as a direct result of the funding shortage.

Mr. Bagley explained that the report addresses two main challenges to transportation funding: first, the current statewide funding system is unsustainable and second, even at current funding levels there is still a lot of unmet needs on the Transit and Interstate sides.

Mr. Bagley noted that the report calls for a statewide solution to Act 44. Act 44, he says, required the PTC to provide PennDOT with \$450 million annually for highways, bridges, and public transit, and Act 89 of 2013 modified the payments to dedicate the full amount to transit. In 2022,

PTC payments to PennDOT for transit will be cut to \$50 million and then \$450 million will be provided from the state's General Fund.

Mr. Bagley also explained that the report made it clear that the state's current system for financing transit statewide, which is dependent on Turnpike tolls, is at risk and recommended that the local counties in the Southeast to be allowed to raise their own revenue in addition to available funds.

Mr. Murawski asked if there is constitutional restriction about using the \$5 fee for transit projects? Mr. Ritzman answered yes.

Mr. Murawski asked if there was a plan to generate alternative funding if the PTC is not able to transfer the \$450 million on July 1, 2019.

Mr. Bagley answered that there isn't any other alternative funding to make up for the PTC transfers.

Ms. Holton commented about the need to make all the funding studies available to the public.

ENHANCED COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION: By Amanda Shaffer

Ms. Amanda Shaffer from McCormick Taylor, gave a brief update about the TAC Enhance Communications and Coordination Initiative. She highlighted some of the overall progression of the Initiative and the next steps to follow. Ms. Shaffer explained that the Data collection and the Website assessment have been completed. She added that a Collaborative subcommittee and committee meetings to review draft documents will soon follow.

Ms. Shaffer noted that the Next Steps will include the review of the following draft documents:

- TAC Charter
 - Purpose
 - Mission
 - Vision
 - Scope and Responsibilities
- Operating Procedures
 - Organizational Structure
 - Bylaws
- Study Identification Process

2019 TAC STUDY DISCUSSION: BY MICHAEL BAKER INTERNATIONAL

TAC's new Consultant Group for the next Five Years, Michael Baker International, discussed potential study topics for the next TAC study. Prior to the meeting, TAC Chair, Jody Holton and the PennDOT Contract Management team met with the Michael Baker Team and TAC members were sent a survey asking them to rank past study topics and submit any new study topics they wished to have discussed at the April TAC meeting.

Dan Cessna, Vice President of Michael Baker International introduced his Team and highlighted their experience working with PennDOT. Project managers, Troy Truax and Brian Funkhouser led the Study Discussion. Overall, the discussion topics include:

- Online survey distributed to TAC members
- The ranking of submitted surveys/old ideas
- 11 new study ideas for consideration
- 12 completed surveys on past study ideas

The overall goal of the discussion was to determine which past study topics should be considered further. TAC members provided input about the study ideas. Each study topic was ranked based on the pertinence of the idea and the relevancy of issues it is meant to address. A framework for analysis, made of TAC members comments and decision to either move the topic for further consideration or not, was compiled and will be discussed by the TAC at the next meeting.

2021 TWELVE YEAR PROGRAM OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: By Jessica Clark

Ms. Jessica Clark gave a presentation about the open public comment period for the update of the 2021 Twelve Year Program. Ms. Clark explained that the 45-day public comment period for the update of the 2021 Twelve Year Program officially began on Monday March 4, and continues through Wednesday, April 17.

Ms. Clark went on to list some of the key highlights and steps of the public outreach plan including:

Key Outreach Initiatives

- Online Toolkit: Fact Sheets, Posters, Videos
- Social Media Campaign: Promotional Videos for targeted audiences
- Email Blasts to Stakeholders: Library Ambassadors, College Geography Departments of PA Universities

Online Transportation Survey

Ms. Clark explained that since the comment period opened, nearly 3,600 surveys have been received including 2,800 totally completed surveys and 1,376 mapped points. 214 of those issues were considered 'already addressed' by the survey respondent.

Online Public Meeting March 21st, 2019, hosted by STC Chair

- Live feed by the Commonwealth Media Services
- Facebook Live Event
- Questions answered live
- Closed captioning

Ms. Clark noted that the goals of this year's update were to increase the online public meeting participation, the number of 18-24 years old participants and exceed 5,000 overall survey takers. Ms. Clark indicated that those goals are within reach. She explained that the Online Public Meeting recorded its highest attendance since the modernization process began in 2013. It generated over 1,100 live views of the webinar, and 105 peak live viewers on Facebook, and more than 84 questions were submitted.

Ms. Clark also explained that only 200 participants in the last cycle were in the 18-24 age group and given hence the focus on that age group in this update cycle.

Ms. Clark indicated that the feedback from the outreach campaign will be compiled, analyzed, and shared in the April – June timeframe. She added that the information will also be shared with the STC, the Regional Planning Partners, and the public.

PA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION UPDATE:

Office of Planning

Deputy Secretary Ritzman gave a brief update in which he discussed a meeting he has had with MPO and RPOs to talk about recent TAC studies. Mr. Ritzman also highlighted the Rapid Bridge Replacement Program progress saying that the program has already completed 542 bridges, with 13 still under construction, and three remaining unplanned. Mr. Ritzman also mentioned that the P3 program for a wetland bank in the Southwestern part of the State is moving along.

Policy Office (Not sure if that's the right title)

Roger Cohen gave an update about the I-95 Corridor Coalition Mileage-Based User Fee(MBUF) Pilot Project. Mr. Cohen indicated that as Transportation agencies evaluate various programs to generate sustained and long-term funding to cover the cost of infrastructure repair and replacement, consideration is being given to a Mileage-Based User Fee system. He explained that the I-95 Coalition conducted a study on the administrative requirements for an MBFU system in a multi-state environment. The initial phase of the I-95 Corridor Coalition's study, he noted, assessed the implications of administering an MBUF system in a Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland.

Mr. Cohen said that the second phase of the study has started and will recruit 800 PA residents for the pilot program.

Mr. Cohen indicated that PennDOT and the Commonwealth do not formerly endorse the MBUF. The pilot program is being conducted by the I-95 Corridor Coalition and is intended to examine administrative aspects, institutional, legal and legislative issues that would need to be considered, system operating cost, and public perception of an MBUF system.

Administration and Budget

Deputy Secretary Suzanne Itzko gave a report in which she discussed the Memorial for PennDOT employees killed on the line of duty, the new logo to honor them, and the Secretary's Innovation Challenge, which will look at cost effective ways to increase work zone safety.

Ms. Itzko announced that interviews have been scheduled for the replacement for Mr. Ritzman and two people from the Administration Deputate have been selected for the Governor's Award of Excellence.

Drivers and Vehicles Services

Deputy Secretary Kurt Myers gave an update highlighting the Organ Donation Month celebration. Mr. Myers noted that an event is planned on April 12 with the Secretary of Health and Human Services. He added that the focus of this year's campaign is to increase the number of people registered for organ donation.

Mr. Myers also discussed a proposal circulating at the State Capitol to bring back the registration sticker. He explained that both the number of registrations and the revenue went up between 2017 and 2018. He added that phasing out the sticker has been well received by customers.

Mr. Myers also announced that the Real ID delivery process is moving along, and delivery has begun on March 1st, 2019. He indicated that the DVS will soon reach 100, 000 Real ID delivered.

Mr. Murawski commented about the emission testing requirements, which he said have generated a lot talks.

Mr. Myers explained that emission testing requirements are based on the Clean Air Act and that his deputate only operates the program. He added that for more information about the program's requirements, DEP would be the best place to go.

Highway and Bridge Program

Deputy Secretary George McAuley gave a brief report in which he noted that winter maintenance was 2% over budget. He indicated that although salt usage was down throughout the season compared to last season, higher salt prices drove maintenance cost up.

Mr. McAuley explained that poor bridges numbers are now under 2800 but bridge closures are up due flooding events. Mr. McAuley also indicated that project delivery is progressing.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to be discussed.

NEXT MEETING:

The next TAC business meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, July 18, 2019** in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

ADJOURNMENT:

ON A MOTION by Mr. Cohen and seconded by Mr. Porter, the TAC meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

DRAFT

Attendance* from the TAC Business Meeting
April 11, 2019

1. Ms. Jody Holton, Chair
2. Ms. Leslie Richards, PennDOT Secretary
3. Mr. Larry Nulton, TAC member
4. Mr. Joel McNeil, TAC member
5. Mr. Ashley Porter, TAC member
6. Ms. Felicia Dell, TAC member
7. Mr. Donald Detwiler, TAC Member
8. Mr. John Pocius, TAC member
9. Mr. Tom Geanopulos, TAC member
10. Mr. Mark Murawski, TAC member
11. Mr. Jeff Stroehmann, TAC member
12. Mr. David Volkman, alternate for Mr. Pedro Rivera, TAC member
13. Mr. Paul Opiyo, alternate for Mr. Dennis Davin, TAC member
14. Mr. Rodney Bender, alternate for Ms. Gladys Brown Dutrieuille, TAC Member
15. Mr. Fred Strathmeyer, alternate for Mr. Russell Redding, TAC member
16. Ms. Tiffany Landis, alternate for Mr. Patrick McDonnell, TAC member
17. Mr. Leo Bagley, PennDOT
18. Ms. Suzanne Itzko, PennDOT
19. Mr. George McAuley, PennDOT
20. Mr. Jim Ritzman, PennDOT
21. Mr. Roger Cohen, PennDOT
22. Mr. Kurt Myers, PennDOT
23. Mr. Larry Shifflet, PennDOT
24. Ms. Emily Watts, PennDOT
25. Ms. Lugene Keys, McCormick Taylor
26. Ms. Amanda Shaffer, McCormick Taylor
27. Ms. Christi Sabb, McCormick Taylor
28. Ms. Leanne Doran, Michael Baker Int'l
29. Mr. Troy Truex, Michael Baker Int'l
30. Mr. Keith Chase, Michael Baker Int'l
31. Mr. Brian Funkhouser, Michael Baker Int'l
32. Mr. Mark Tobin, PennDOT
33. Ms. Jessica Clark, PennDOT
34. Mr. Abdoul Ahmed, PennDOT
35. Mr. Terry Pinder, PennDOT
36. Mr. Martin Sargent, PennDOT
37. Ms. Karen Heath, PennDOT

**Attendance includes members present via conference call.*