



PENNSYLVANIA STATE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CONFERENCE CALL
CAMP HILL, PENNSYLVANIA
APRIL 17, 2014

CALL TO ORDER:

A quarterly meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was held on April 17, 2014 at the Keystone Building in Harrisburg, PA. Chairman Lou Schultz called the TAC meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

Chairman Schultz stated that the Traffic Incident Management study was accepted at the STC February 25, 2014 Conference Call, noting that the Turnpike Commission used the study as a guidebook during an incident on the Turnpike in March.

Chairman Schultz noted updates to the STC Website at www.talkpatransportation.com and the new contract to conduct studies was executed in January. The consultant for TAC studies is Gannett Fleming.

Chairman Schultz also noted the resignation of Mr. Brad Cober, after 14 years of service to the TAC, and the passing of former TAC executive secretary Anita Everhart, who passed away in early February.

MINUTES:

ON A MOTION by Mr. Bob Regola, seconded by Mr. Gus Scheerbaum, and unanimously approved, the minutes of the December 5, 2013 TAC meeting and the February 6, 2014 TAC Conference Call were accepted as presented.

PA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION UPDATE:

Deputy Secretary for Administration

Deputy Secretary Brad Mallory gave a brief report on the implementation of Act 89, which was signed into law by Governor Tom Corbett on November 25, 2013. He also described the effort to aid a man who is driving his tractor across the nation to raise money for charity. The PA State Police are also aiding in this effort.

Act 89 also expanded the disadvantaged business program.

Deputy Secretary for Driver and Vehicle Services

Deputy Secretary Kurt Myers delivered a report on Driver and Vehicle Services. The Veteran's Trust Fund has raised \$560,000 through the month of April. This is more than expected and it represents 70,000 to 80,000 separate donations from the citizens of Pennsylvania.

In March 2014, a Veteran designation became available for drivers licenses. Self-certification is permitted, and the information is audited. As of April 15,000 designations have been issued. Deputy Secretary Myers is hopeful that 100,000 designations will be issued in the first year.

Additional Act 89 fees will come into effect on July 1, 2014 and January 1, 2015. . The first fee alternative will enable citizens to pay a civil penalty in lieu of a three-month license and registration suspension in the case of a lack of financial responsibility. The second fee is the ability for counties to add an additional \$5 to registration fees.

Deputy Secretary Myers stated a new apportioned registration system will go into effect for heavy trucks. The current system was built in 1979 and is in need of updating.

A new contract has been awarded for the Motorcycle Safety program. In 2013, the program, which is free for Pennsylvanians, trained some 15,000 people. May is also Motorcycle Safety month.

Driver licensing facilities are being improved. The Chambersburg facility has been moved to a new, larger location, and the Columbus Blvd., location in Philadelphia is in the process of being moved to a larger location at Whitman Plaza. There are seventeen more facilities that will be upgraded as funds become available.

Deputy Secretary for Highway Administration

Deputy Secretary Scott Christie, P.E., gave a report stating Act 89 programs are underway such as milk truck permits and weekend moves for oversized vehicles. The 70 MPH speed limit has not yet been implemented as the department is working with the Turnpike Commission. Traffic signal programs and local bridge bundling programs described in the legislation are also being worked on.

Deputy Secretary Christie gave a report on project delivery and stated that fatalities on state roads had fallen to the lowest number in the Department's history. Data mining and a close look at locations of fatalities are used to invest in safety improvements at locations where it gives the most return in saving lives. This aids in further driving the fatality rate down.

The Department met its let dates for the first quarter, with 60% of the projects being let within 10% of the cost estimate. In 2013, over 90% of projects were constructed in the timeframe allotted to them. Costs contained within 103% of the bid amount were in the 60% range, indicating that project scopings need to be refined to ensure that when a project begins more work is not needed. The Accelerated Bridge Program will comprise of 350 bridges this year. This has lowered the number of new bridges that become structurally deficient each year down to fewer than 300.

The Department expended \$250 million for its winter budget; \$190 million was budgeted. Much of the budget was spent in the southeast part of the state due to the heavy snows that affected that part of the state. In addition, winter 2014 had many freeze-thaw cycles and the Department will be undertaking an aggressive paving program into the summer, including pothole repair.

Mr. Scheerbaum stated that roundabouts located on at-grade intersections reduce fatal crashes by up to 90%. He asked if there were any programs in Act 89 that gave an incentive to build roundabouts in Pennsylvania. Deputy Secretary Christie stated that the Department supports roundabouts as the first option and the Department will make extra funds available for roundabouts if the planning partners are interested.

Mr. Ron Wagenmann asked about updates to the US 202 Section 400 concrete. Deputy Secretary Christie stated it is due to alkali silica reactions (ASR), which causes serious expansion and cracking in concrete and can produce significant structural problems. He indicated he was discussing the issue with industry and that the Department is looking hard at the certifications used for construction.

Mr. Chuck Welker asked about the inventory of local bridges under 20 feet. Mr. Larry Shifflet, PennDOT, Center for Program Development and Management (CPDM), stated that the planning partners were taking an inventory of the local bridges under 20 feet and a handful of planning partners were complete. The Department is working with the planning partners to complete their inventories which also includes a local roads inventory.

Mr. Will Dando reported that municipalities were receiving information from the industry that they were no longer required to bond roads for letters of determination and asked for clarification in regards to Act 89. Deputy Secretary Christie stated that the legislation did not change PennDOT's process for letters of determination and the language in the legislation was being misinterpreted by a few.

P3 Project Update

Mr. Dale Witmer delivered the report for P3 in place of Policy Director Bryan Kendro, highlighting a number of initiatives. Four firms have been shortlisted for the Rapid Bridge Replacement project. An RFP will be issued in Summer 2014 and a firm will be selected in Fall 2014. In addition, Travelers Marketing has been selected to evaluate opportunities for advertising and/or sponsorship on Department owned assets.

An RFQ will be issued at the end of April to evaluate opportunities for wireless telecoms to use the Department's rights-of-way and assets to generate additional revenue.

Other P3 projects reported include a wireless network at the Port of Pittsburgh, a smart-truck project that would enable truckers to determine if parking spots are available at truck stops, and a train station development project along the Keystone Line.

The unsolicited P3 proposal period is in April and October of each year.

Deputy Secretary for Planning

CPDM Bureau Director Larry Shifflet gave a brief report for the Office of Planning in place of Deputy Secretary Jim Ritzman, P.E, stating that 2014 lettings would be \$2.1 billion or more. Mr. Shifflet also indicated the development of the 2015 Twelve Year Program is underway. The 2015 Twelve Year Program will be presented to the State Transportation Commission for consideration and adoption at its August 14, 2014 quarterly business meeting in Gettysburg, PA.

PRESENTATIONS:

Multimodal Fund/Application Process

Ms. Danielle Spila, PennDOT

Ms. Danielle Spila gave a presentation on the Multimodal Fund and Application Process. The applications to the PennDOT portion of the multimodal fund are due by June 30, 2014. A portion of the multimodal fund is allocated to the Commonwealth Financing Authority, whose application process is also open and applications are due by June 20, 2014. The Multimodal Fund is open to all projects, such as rail, aviation, bicycle/pedestrian, and local projects. The funds available from PennDOT discretionary funds are \$20 million. The Rail Freight Assistance Program (RFAP) application program opens on May 1, 2014 and closes on May 30, 2014.

Ms. Spila stated that Act 89 has broad program goals and the funds can be applied to a wide variety of transportation projects. Projects must have a 30% local cash match .

The Multimodal Fund's funding sources are the five or six unrestricted motor license fees that are available and the Oil Company Franchise Fee, which is restricted to projects related to roads.

Transportation Asset Management

Ms. Melissa Batula, P.E., PennDOT

Ms. Melissa Batula delivered a presentation on PennDOT's Transportation Asset Management (TAM) Tool development. The tool is being developed for the interstates. The spreadsheet-based tool enables the Department to achieve a performance-based analysis to maintain a state of good repair on roads and bridges using inspection data. The analysis can be used for project programming and risk management.

TAM links to STIP development and Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) reporting. The tool is MAP-21 compliant with flexible user inputs, automatic analyses, and report generation that inform decision-making.

Mr. Scheerbaum asked if any assumptions for system expansion were made in the development of the model. Ms. Batula stated that TAM is used to maintain the system as is.

TAC Transportation Performance Report – Moving Forward

Chairman Lou Schultz and Mr. Robert Taylor, Gannett Fleming

Chairman Schultz and Mr. Robert Taylor of Gannett Fleming delivered the Transportation Performance Report – Moving Forward. The first report was initiated in 2012 and adopted by the State Transportation Commission in February of 2013. The second version of the TPR is anticipated for release in February of 2015. The TPR became the framework for STC modernization of its public involvement initiative as well as a reference for public relations.

The next TPR will use measures from MAP-21, PA On Track, and Congestion management and Operations tools. It will also act as a filter for future TAC initiatives and as a tool for STC public outreach.

The next steps would be to formalize a performance reporting collaboration team, monitor performance measurement trends and MAP-21, monitor emerging issues and initiate the 2015 update of the TPR.

ON A MOTION by Mr. Bob Regola, seconded by Mr. Chuck Welker, and unanimously approved, the TAC TPR update was accepted as presented.

SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION’S REMARKS AND TAC CURRENT STUDIES:

Secretary Barry Schoch challenged TAC members to undertake a similar modernization discussion and process, describing the STC’s modernization of its public involvement process. He extended the challenge to TAC as well as several of the other advisory committees under PennDOT’s purview. Secretary Schoch urged members from all committees to develop a plan to examine the big picture as well as the fine details in regards to each advisory committee. He asked for each committee to be honest and candid in their participation, seeking out a solution that will make these entities more useful for members, the legislature, the Department and the public.

The Secretary’s challenge was mirrored by the TAC New Study initiative. The TAC new study initiatives would adjust the process by which study topics are suggested. A TAC member would propose a study topic and write up a brief study proposal that is sent to the TAC chairman and the department’s TAC coordinator. The proposal is then filtered through the appropriate PennDOT Deputies and executive staff members. From there the Department would then determine if the proposal has potential or not. A proposal with potential is then forwarded to a Core Team for development of the study approach, and the report the Core Team develops would be presented to the full TAC.

Chairman Schultz also presented a series of potential study topics that were run through the new study topic process. The topics recommended for immediate study were:

- TAC Modernization
- On-call consultant support for other study topics as needed
- Transportation Performance Report, 2nd Edition (2015)

Chairman Schultz proposed three work orders. These work orders would enable work to begin on the topics recommended for immediate study.

ON A MOTION by Mr. Chuck Welker, seconded by Mr. Jack Rutter, and unanimously approved, the Work Orders were accepted as presented.

NEXT MEETING:

The TAC Modernization workshop is Thursday July 10, 2014 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania at the PennDOT Lab. The next scheduled TAC meeting is Thursday, October 9, 2014 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania at the Keystone Building.

ADJOURNMENT:

ON A MOTION by Mr. Bob Regola, seconded by Mr. Gus Scheerbaum, and unanimously approved, The TAC meeting adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

Attendance from the TAC Business Meeting
April 17, 2014

1. Mr. Barry Schoch, Secretary of Transportation
2. Mr. Louis C. Schultz, Jr., TAC Chairman
3. Mr. Ron Wagenmann, TAC member
4. Mr. Dave Hickernell, TAC member
5. Mr. Robert Regola, TAC member
6. Mr. Jack Rutter, TAC member
7. Mr. Daniel Husted, TAC member
8. Mr. Donald Detwiler, TAC member
9. Mr. Tom Geanopoulos, TAC member
10. Mr. Will Dando, alternate for Senator Richard Kasunic, TAC member
11. Mr. Rodney Bender, TAC member
12. Mr. Gus Scheerbaum, TAC member
13. Mr. Chuck Welker, TAC member
14. Mr. Dennis Lebo, Gannett Fleming
15. Mr. Bob Taylor, Gannett Fleming
16. Ms. Leanne Doran, McCormick Taylor
17. Ms. Jennifer Horn, McCormick Taylor
18. Mr. Brad Mallory, PennDOT
19. Mr. Kurt Myers, PennDOT
20. Mr. Scott Christie, PennDOT
21. Mr. Dale Witmer, PennDOT
22. Mr. Jim Arey, PennDOT
23. Mr. Kenneth Druckenmiller, PennDOT
24. Ms. Melissa Batula, PennDOT
25. Ms. Danielle Spila, PennDOT
26. Mr. Brian Hare, PennDOT
27. Mr. Mark Tobin, PennDOT
28. Mr. Larry Shifflet, PennDOT
29. Ms. Jessica Clark, PennDOT
30. Ms. Julie Harmantzis, PennDOT
31. Mr. Martin Sargent, PennDOT
32. Mr. Terry Pinder, PennDOT
33. Mr. Paul Reed, PennDOT
34. Ms. Abigail Weaver, Greentree Partners
35. Mr. Ed Troxell, PA Borough Association
36. Mr. Ron Grutza, PA Borough Association