

PENNSYLVANIA STATE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
BUSINESS MEETING
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
APRIL 12, 2018



CALL TO ORDER:

A quarterly business meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on April 12, 2018 in Harrisburg, PA.

MINUTES:

ON A MOTION by Mr. Wagenmann and seconded by Mrs. Sandberg, and unanimously approved, the Minutes of February 5, 2018, 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.

SECRETARY'S REMARKS:

Sitting in for Secretary Richards, Mr. Roger Cohen discussed the second Pennsylvania Automated Vehicles (AVs) Summit held on April 9-10, 2018, in Pittsburgh. Mr. Cohen said that the goal of the Summit was to outline a Policy Action Plan to strengthen safety oversight of Highly Automated Vehicles in the Commonwealth. He explained that more than 400 attendees registered for this event to learn about AV safety, infrastructure planning, and workforce and economic development. Mr. Cohen added that the purpose of the summit was to create a platform for interaction between subject-matter experts, decision-makers, and opinion leaders.

The Summit also focused on:

- Addressing concern regarding potential inequities in access to technology between rural and urban/suburban parts of the Commonwealth.
- Increasing participation of local officials in thinking about how vehicle automation will affect their communities, particularly regarding land-use, tax revenue, and law enforcement.
- Defining the role of Public Transit Agencies in the process of developing and operating HAV.

Mr. Cohen also indicated that PennDOT will urge the AV industry and testers to:

- Voluntarily agree to comply with PennDOT interim testing policies and complete Notice to Testing Certification.
- Meet with the PennDOT Secretary.

- Continue to foster open lines of communication with PennDOT.
- Coordinate with PennDOT on developing best practices for operating AVs within safety critical locations such as signalized intersections and work zones.
- Put greater emphasis on developing and deploying vehicle-to-vehicle, vehicle-to-infrastructure, and vehicle-to-device connectivity.

Additionally, PennDOT will continue to urge the General Assembly to adopt legislation that provides for AV testing on public roadways subject to PennDOT's safety oversight and requires compliance with PennDOT's testing safety policies.

Mr. Wagenman commented about the need to include the future impacts of AVs on land use planning in municipalities in the discussions.

Mrs. Holton asked if there was a specific AV taskforce with a regular meeting schedule? Mr. Cohen answered yes. He added that the AV Taskforce has drafted a set of Policy Recommendations for Safe Testing but the Department is still waiting for legal authorization to enforce them.

CHAIR'S REMARKS:

TAC Chair, Jody Holton gave brief remarks in which she also commented on the success of PennDOT's recent Automated Vehicle Summit in Pittsburgh. Ms. Holton highlighted the Policy Action Plan for Increased Safety Oversight of Highly Automated Vehicles. She also discussed the announcement of the collaboration on PennSTART, which is a new State of the Art Safety, Training and Research Facility aimed to address safety, training and research needs in *Traffic Incident Management, Tolling and ITS technology, work zones, commercial vehicles, transit vehicles, and connected and automated vehicles*. Mrs. Holton indicated that more information on both initiatives can be found on the Department Website under the Press Releases.

WORKING SESSION

TAC STUDIES UPDATE by Jody Holton

TAC Chair, Jody Holton gave an update about the three active studies including:

- **2019 Transportation Performance Report**
Mrs. Holton noted that the Scope for this study will be drafted in the June/July time frame and it is anticipated to be completed by February 2019.

- **Intercity Passenger Rail Study**
Mrs. Holton said that the Scope for this item was approved to proceed in ECMS. The study is anticipated to be completed by February 2019.

- **Risks to Transportation Funding Analysis (previously Alternative Fuel Vehicle) Study**

Mrs. Holton explained that that at the request of the Department, the Scope for this study was broadened to include other potential risks to transportation funding, in addition to

Alternative Fuel Vehicles. She added that following this TAC meeting, the Study Scope will put into ECMS. The study is anticipated to be completed early 2019.

The taskforces for **The Intercity Passenger Rail** and **The Risks to Transportation Funding** studies were announced.

The Intercity Passenger Rail Study Taskforce includes:

1. Jody Holton, **Co-Chair**
2. Jeff Stroehmann, **Co-Chair**
3. Mark Murawski
4. Eric Bugaile
5. Nolan Ritchie
6. Jack Rutter
7. John Pocius

The Risks to Transportation Funding Analysis Taskforce includes:

1. Ron Wagenmann, **Chair**
2. Jody Holton
3. Brenda Sandberg
4. Nolan Ritchie
5. Stacy Ritter
6. Natasha Fackler
7. Michael Carroll

2018 TAC ENHANCED COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION: Jessica Clark and Leanne Doran

The TAC discussed a new initiative intended to give TAC members the opportunity to provide input regarding the Committee operations. Ms. Jessica Clark and Ms. Leanne Doran of McCormick Taylor gave a presentation about how to improve communication and collaboration between the PennDOT staff, the Committee, and the public. Talking points include the Committee *mission, Memberships structure, Meeting Requirement and Structure, Study Identification and Development, and Communication and Collaboration* between the TAC, the public and PennDOT staff.

About the **TAC Mission**, Ms. Doran explained that it was established by Act 120 of 1970 and its mission is to “*advises the Transportation Secretary and State Transportation Commission in the determination of goals and allocation of available resources for the Commonwealth's transportation system.*”

As of **Membership**, Ms. Doran indicated that TAC is comprised of 30 **total members** including:

- 7 ex-officio members
- 7 public members appointed by the Governor
- 6 public members appointed by the President Pro Tempore

- 6 public members appointed by the Speaker
- 2 legislative members appointed by the President Pro Tempore
- 2 legislative members appointed by the Speaker

Current TAC members were also given the opportunity to introduce themselves and provide some of their area of interest.

Ms. Doran also discussed the TAC **Meeting Requirements and Structure**. She noted that TAC holds a total of Four to five meetings per year. Also, Act 120 requires one meeting to be held on the first Monday of February. The meetings are held at the Keystone Building.

She added that the TAC meeting **Agenda** includes:

- Report from the Secretary
- TAC Study or Initiative Presentations
- Department Updates
- Other Business – Public Comment

In terms of **Communications and Collaboration**, Ms. Doran explained that the TAC Chair reports to State Transportation Commission (STC) and members are encouraged to coordinate between meetings. She also noted that new members go through orientation process to familiarize them with the functioning of the Committee, Department news and current initiatives updates are shared at the TAC meetings, and access to online resources on the STC website is greatly promoted and encouraged.

Ms. Doran also highlighted the process of **Study Identification and Development**, which includes:

- Study ideas requested during TAC Meeting (July 2017)
- TAC members provided suggestions (via emailed form)
- Staff provided a summary of study suggestions
- Staff provided an update on previous study ideas not advanced (December 2017)
- TAC members discussed and selected new studies during TAC Meeting (December 2017)
- Scopes drafted & reviewed at TAC Meeting (February 2018)
- Request for task force volunteers (via email)
- Consultant contracting process begins
- TAC Meeting Reports (begins in April 2018)

Discussion Workshop

TAC members were given a suggestion form to provide input on several rubrics including:

- Membership
- Meeting Requirements and Structure
- Communications and Coordination
- Study Identification and Development

Lists of TAC members' transportation interest and suggestions and input for each rubric were compiled and will be discussed at the upcoming TAC meetings.

PA FREIGHT UPDATE: by Mike Sorbo

Mr. Sorbo gave a presentation in which he discussed ongoing initiatives to improve freight movement in the Commonwealth. The presentation came as direct answer to a request made by TAC member Michael Carroll at the February TAC meeting.

Mr. Sorbo explained that freight transportation represents a key competitiveness factor for Pennsylvania's businesses. He noted that PennDOT, in coordination with the State's 24 Planning Partners and numerous statewide freight stakeholders, led the development of Pennsylvania's first ever multimodal statewide freight plan called the Comprehensive Freight Movement Plan (CFMP). The CFMP is essentially intended to:

- Identify strategies, policies, and locations to improve freight access, interconnectivity, and mobility on Pennsylvania's multimodal freight transportation system.
- Help guide the state's investment decisions regarding the infrastructure that supports freight movements.

In the Railroads sector, Mr. Sorbo noted that a multiple phase outreach study has been commissioned with operating railroads and railroad user/shippers. He explained that the study will focus on:

- Identifying opportunities for shipper growth within the rail freight industry
- Identifying capital rail improvements that increases rail freight capacity
- Assessing the flow of goods through the commonwealth within the next 10 years
- Evaluating of rail freight markets supporting economic opportunities

Mr. Sorbo discussed recent capital improvement studies undertaken to assess conditions at the Port of Philadelphia. Some of which include:

- Safety/Security planning needs of Philadelphia port traffic (*grade crossings, emergency evacuation routes, hazardous materials routes, truck rest areas*)
- Port of Philadelphia Capital Improvement Plan.

In the aviation sector, Mr. Sorbo highlighted some initiatives including:

- The inclusion of air freight facilities in the 2016 Statewide Airport System Plan Update as an inventory item for commercial service airport and just-in-time (JIT) shipping activity at all public-use airports
- A collaboration effort with airports at the Fall 2017 planning sessions to include air freight projects in their 12-year capital improvement plans
- The Bureau of Aviation's participation in the master plan project advisory group for the Lehigh Valley International Airport (LVIA)
- A meeting with representatives from Harrisburg International Airport to discuss potential future development projects including air freight facility expansion and on-airport ground access improvements.

Mr. Rutter commented about the specific topics covered by the port studies. Mr. Sorbo indicated that the studies cover cargo activities, berths, cranes, warehouses, and privately owned marinas.

Mrs. Holton indicated that TAC members could play a role in conducting outreach for some the ongoing freight studies.

PA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION UPDATE:

Office of Planning

Sitting in for Deputy Secretary Jim Ritzman, Mr. Larry Shifflet gave a brief update in which he talked about the Trump Administration Transportation Proposal and the 2019 Twelve Year Program (TYP) update. Mr. Shifflet indicated the 2019 Program will be presented for approval at the STC meeting in Philadelphia in August 2018. He indicated that the TYP update process is going well and on schedule. Mr. Shifflet also reported that the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is also on target for an October 1, 2018 approval thanks to the collaboration between Planning Partners and PennDOT.

Highway and Bridge Program

Deputy Secretary George McAuley gave an update discussing winter maintenance. He noted that due to the duration of the winter season, the Department has spent more than budgeted. Mr. McAuley also indicated that project delivery is on schedule, secondary roads maintenance efforts are progressing and a list of areas of critical needs is being drafted.

Mr. Rutter indicated that traffic control in work zones needs to improve. Mr. McAuley said that changes are being made and improvements will soon be seen.

Mr. Wagenmann indicated that several of the resurfaced roads are already deteriorating. Mr. McAuley said that some of the resurfacing is a short-term fix and tend to quickly deteriorate.

Administration and Budget

Deputy Secretary Suzanne Itzko gave an update in which she announced that Deputy Secretary for Multimodal Transportation Toby Fauver has resigned and Mr. Anthony McCloskey will be the acting Deputy Secretary until the position is filled. Ms. Itzko also announced that William Petty has retired and a selection has been made to replace him. Ms. Itzko also discussed the Diversity Forum held last Fall which focused on increasing the involvement of disadvantaged

businesses in transportation projects. The goal of the Forum is to draw the rich diversity already present in the business community into the contracting work the Department performs to deliver transportation benefits. She added that two to three more forums will be held in the future.

Drivers and Vehicles Services

Deputy Secretary Kurt Myers gave an update stating that PennDOT has opened online application for REAL ID pre-verification for customers who are interested in obtaining a REAL ID and obtained their first Pennsylvania driver's license or photo ID card after September 2003. Mr. Myers indicated that PennDOT has begun sending postcards to eligible customers inviting them to visit PennDOT's Driver and Vehicle Services website to request that PennDOT confirm their documents are on file. He noted that once a customer has completed the pre-verification application process, PennDOT staff will review the customer's record and verify which documents are on file. The customer will receive follow-up communication from PennDOT regarding the status of their application. Customers are not pre-verified until they have completed the online pre-verification process and received confirmation from PennDOT that all documents are on file.

Mr. Myers explained that additional Driver License centers has been created to accelerate the process. He added that social media campaign was ongoing and a media advertising will soon follow. Mr. Myers also discussed the Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Day. He mentioned that a press conference with Secretary of Health is scheduled at the Riverfront Office.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING:

The next TAC business meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, October 11, 2018** in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

ADJOURNMENT:

ON A MOTION by Mr. Geanopulos and seconded by Ms. Dell, the TAC meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Attendance* from the TAC Business Meeting
April 12, 2018

1. Ms. Jody Holton, Chair
2. Mr. Ronald Wagenmann, TAC member
3. Mr. Thomas Geanopulos, TAC member
4. Mr. Michael Carroll, TAC member
5. Mr. Rodney Bender, alternate for Ms. Gladys Brown, TAC member
6. Mr. Nolan Ritchie, alternate for Senator John Rafferty, TAC member
7. Ms. Elizabeth Sickler, alternate for Rep. John Taylor, TAC member
8. Ms. Felicia Dell, TAC member
9. Mr. Paul Opiyo, alternate for Mr. Dennis Davin, TAC member
10. Mr. Mark Murawski, TAC member
11. Mr. Joel McNeil, TAC member
12. Mr. Ashley Porter, TAC member
13. Ms. Karina Ricks, TAC member
14. Mr. Eric Bugaile, TAC member
15. Mr. John Pocus, TAC member
16. Mr. Fred Strathmeyer, Jr, TAC member
17. Mr. Jeff Stroehmann, TAC member
18. Ms. Lisa Dorman, alternate for Patrick McDonnell
19. Mr. John Kashatus, alternate for Pedro Rivera, TAC member
20. Mr. Tim Smith, Gannett Fleming
21. Mr. Keith Chase, Gannett Fleming
22. Ms. Leanne Doran, McCormick Taylor
23. Ms. Suzanne Itzko, PennDOT
24. Mr. Roger Cohen, PennDOT
25. Mr. Jim Ritzman, PennDOT
26. Mr. Larry Shifflet, PennDOT
27. Mr. Mike Sorbo, PennDOT
28. Ms. Lugene Keys, McCormick Taylor
29. Ms. Jessica Clark, PennDOT
30. Mr. Jim Arey, PennDOT
31. Mr. Kurt Myers, PennDOT
32. Mr. Mark Tobin, PennDOT
33. Mr. Abdoul Ahmed, PennDOT
34. Ms. Katie Zerfuss, PennDOT
35. Ms. Ellen Sweeney, PennDOT

**Attendance includes members present via conference call.*

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