

PENNSYLVANIA STATE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
BUSINESS MEETING
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
APRIL 20, 2017



CALL TO ORDER:

A quarterly business meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was called to order at 10:02 am on April 20, 2017 in Harrisburg, PA.

MINUTES:

ON A MOTION by Mr. Ron Wagenmann and seconded by Mr. Joe Mangarella, and unanimously approved, the minutes of the February 6, 2017, TAC Business Meeting were accepted as modified.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

Mr. Ritzman delivered a brief opening remarks discussing the press release about traffic fatalities dropping to their lowest level since record keeping began in 1928. Mr. Ritzman noted that although the 1188 deaths recorded on Pennsylvania roads in 2016 are the lowest ever, they are still 1188 over the acceptable level. Furthermore, Mr. Ritzman pointed out that despite the overall decreasing trend, pedestrian fatalities and deaths at intersections have increased in 2016, showing once more the need to remain focus on improving safety on the Commonwealth roadways.

Three new TAC members were introduced:

- Jody Houlton
- Brenda Samberg
- Felicia Dell

SECRETARY'S REMARKS:

Sitting in for Secretary Richards, Mr. Leo Bagley talked about the PennDOT Connects initiative launched in December. The PennDOT Connects initiative requires municipalities, planning partners, and Districts to collaborate before a project scope is developed. He also noted the County Transformation Accreditation, another initiative launched by Secretary Richards, through which counties had the opportunity to present their business plans and their maintenance processes, was still underway and is expected to significantly improve counties business practices. Finally, Mr. Bagley discussed the RoadMap Initiative. He mentioned that secretary Richards allocated \$1 billion to counties over 10 years for general maintenance activities, \$500 million dollars for additional maintenance activities on interstates and \$600 million to other rehabilitation and reconstruction needs throughout the state.

Mr. Chuck Welker asked how the department was doing on winter maintenance program and Mr. McAuley answered that the winter maintenance program experienced less usage of salt than

anticipated but the March blizzard had major impacts on the program. Despite the severity of this winter storm, the winter maintenance program overall was a success this year.

TAC CURRENT STUDIES:

Automated Red Light Enforcement Program Evaluation

Tim Smith, Gannett Fleming

Mr. Tim Smith gave an update on the Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) Program Evaluation.

The ARLE Program is intended to improve safety by reducing crashes related to red-light running. A study was commissioned to evaluate the effectiveness of the Program. The results show that ARLE is effective in reducing crashes at intersections, is underutilized and funding from the program benefits many communities.

The findings also showed that of the seventeen municipalities eligible to implement the ARLE Program, only two have done so. These two municipalities include the City of Philadelphia and Abington Township. In Philadelphia, ARLE Program covered intersections increased from 3 in 2005 to 30 in 2016, while Abington Township has had three intersections since 2014.

In the City of Philadelphia, data have shown that the ARLE Program has successfully improved safety. In Abington Township, on the other hand, the program is too recent to make any definitive conclusion.

The study includes several recommendations:

- Amending ARLE legislation to:
 - Expand the number of eligible counties
 - Require additional supporting financial documentation with quarterly reports
 - Require PennDOT approval before eliminating ARLE intersections
 - Eliminate the requirement of police force accreditation for a municipality to be eligible.
- Reinvest ARLE funds back into ARLE projects
- Continue and enhance ARLE program promotion
- Consider statewide contracting for ARLE to encourage additional municipal participation
- Consider Requiring a local match for ARLE-funded projects
- Provide targeted information and awareness to elected officials and municipalities
- Establish regular ARLE program evaluations

Joseph Daly, Springfield Township, Chief of Police, provided a case study of his Delaware County municipality where the implementation of an ARLE Program failed due to lack of public support and bad publicity.

Mr. Scheerbaum asked how the Philadelphia Parking Authority (PPA) and the Abington Township administrative costs compare to the rest of the country. Mr. Smith answered that the report has not looked at that part of the Program because they didn't have any data available to them. Ms. Kathy Malarich commented that the reason the data weren't available could be related

to the fact that auditor general was doing a report on the program too. Mr. Ritchie said that the committee could request access to the data if it was in the interest of the committee.

Mr. Ritchie commented that some of the legislative requirements have not been addressed by the report. He asked if it is because the evaluation of those requirements was not the responsibility of the TAC report and if that's the case how will the department go about evaluating those requirements. He also asked how this evaluation report relates to the STC. Mr. Smith answered that the conditions of eligibilities, have been defined by the legislation but the evaluation of the requirements to implement ARLE is made through clear procedures.

Ms. Dell asked if anyone knew why the legislation was so narrowly defining population classes of what county could be eligible. Mr. Nolan said that he assumed that the legislation's population classes definition could have been inspired by other legislation such as that for LIDAR/RADAR for local law enforcement which determined that the way to advance such legislature would be to only allow it in certain highly populated counties and municipalities.

The TAC engaged in discussion about the changes to make to the report and whether accepting the report without knowing the actual administrative costs will impact the expansion of the program.

ON A MOTION Mr. Donald Detwiler and seconded by Mr. Ron Wagenmann, and unanimously approved, the ARLE Program evaluation report was accepted with modifications.

PA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION UPDATE:

Deputy Secretary for Administration

Deputy Secretary Suzanne Itzko gave a brief update about the administration deputate. She talked about budget shortfall that the department is facing and noted that she is hopeful that the Governor's proposed budget will address this issue.

Deputy Secretary for Driver and Vehicle Services

Mr. Douglas Haines sitting for Mr. Kurt Myers, Deputy Secretary for Driver and Vehicle Services, gave a brief update about the Driver and Vehicle Services deputate including the department's continuous efforts to go green by eliminating paper publication manuals such as school bus, motorcycle, and CDL manuals, which he emphasized will save money. He also added these manuals can still be accessed on the department's website.

Deputy Secretary for Highway Administration

Deputy Secretary George McAuley delivered a brief update on the RoadMap initiative including efforts to improve maintenance on secondary roads.

Deputy Secretary for Planning

Deputy Secretary Jim Ritzman delivered a brief report for the Planning deputate, highlighting the \$5 fee, which is part of Act 89. He noted that for the 14 counties who have passed the \$5 vehicle registration fee, the department will provide up to \$2 million match to be used on local bridges as part of the RoadMap Initiative

Deputy Secretary for Multimodal Transportation

Ms. Danielle Spila, sitting in for Mr. Toby Fauver, delivered a brief update for the Multimodal deputate. She said that Mr. Fauver was at the formal ribbon cutting of the first CNG public transportation fueling station in Johnstown.

Mr. Ritchie briefly discussed Senate Bill 172 to authorize the use of cameras in work zones.. Mr. Ritchie said that the bill was moving through the Senate and he is hopeful it will continue to move along.

Public Presentation

Mr. Neil Ward gave a presentation about a rail project.

NEXT MEETING:

The next TAC business meeting is Thursday July 27, 2017 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania at the Keystone Building.

ADJOURNMENT:

ON A MOTION by Mr. Wagenmann and seconded by Mr. Scheerbaum, the TAC meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Attendance* from the TAC Business Meeting
April 20, 2017

1. Mr. Jack Rutter, TAC member
2. Mr. Joe Mangarella, TAC member
3. Mr. Paul Opiyo, alternate for Mr. Dennis Davin, TAC member
4. Ms. Beth Sickler, House Transportation Committee
5. Mr. Mark Murawski, TAC Member
6. Mr. Jack Rutter, TAC member
7. Mr. Ashley Porter, TAC member
8. Mr. Donald Detwiler, TAC member
9. Mr. Ron Wagenmann, TAC member
10. Mr. Joel McNeil, TAC member
11. Mr. Gustave Scheerbaum, TAC member
12. Mr. Tom Geanopoulos, TAC member
13. Mr. Jeff Stroehmann, TAC member
14. Mr. Jonathan Gleason, TAC member
15. Mr. Fred Strathmeyer, Jr, TAC member
16. Mr. Rodney Bender, TAC member
17. Mr. Chuck Welker, TAC member
18. Ms. Jodi Houlton, TAC member
19. Ms. Brenda Samberg, TAC member
20. Ms. Felicia Dell, TAC member
21. Mr. Nolan Ritchie, alternate for Senator John Rafferty, TAC member
22. Mr. Keith Chase, Gannett Fleming
23. Mr. Tim Smith, Gannett Fleming
24. Ms. Leanne Doran, McCormick Taylor
25. Mr. Jim Ritzman, PennDOT
26. Mr. Kurt Myers, PennDOT
27. Mr. Mark Tobin, PennDOT
28. Mr. Larry Shifflet, PennDOT
29. Mr. Jim Arey, PennDOT
30. Mr. Brian Hare, PennDOT
31. Ms. Jessica Clark, PennDOT
32. Ms. Ellen Sweeney, PennDOT
33. Mr. Martin Sargent, PennDOT
34. Mr. Terry Pinder, PennDOT
35. Mr. Abdoul Ahmed, PennDOT

*Attendance includes members present via conference call.