



PENNSYLVANIA STATE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
BUSINESS MEETING
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
FEBRUARY 2, 2015

CALL TO ORDER:

A quarterly business meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was held on February 2, 2015 at the Keystone Building in Harrisburg, PA. Chairman Lou Schultz began the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

Chairman Schultz made note that there are seven expired terms on TAC. There are also four vacant positions. Chairman Schultz also introduced Acting Secretary of Transportation Leslie Richards.

MINUTES:

ON A MOTION by Mr. Jack Rutter, seconded by Mr. Rodney Bender, and unanimously approved, the minutes of the December 4, 2014 TAC Business Meeting was accepted as presented.

SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION'S REMARKS:

Acting Secretary Richards introduced herself to the TAC by describing her professional background, including two decades in the private sector and elected office in Montgomery County. Montgomery County reduced its structurally deficient bridges in innovative ways, reducing the number by a third in just over a year. She then asked each TAC member to introduce himself or herself, as well.

PA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION UPDATE:

Deputy Secretary for Administration

Executive Deputy Secretary for Administration Brad Mallory delivered a brief report for the Administration Deputate. He highlighted the safety initiatives ongoing within the Department, stating that the initiatives have spurred an 18% drop in personal injuries over the prior years.

Mr. Mallory stated that to date, 65% to 70% of managers have received raises and efforts continue for the remaining managers.

PennDOT NextGen innovations saved \$100 million to date across the transportation community. Modernization efforts in county maintenance programs have resulted in savings that have been redirected toward other road projects in fiscally challenged counties.

PennDOT IT has been able to implement all of Act 89's complex fee-changes on time. The use of mobile apps and mobile computing devices such as iPads has enabled field staff such as

driver's license examiners to increase productivity. PennDOT manages all mobile devices for the Commonwealth's agencies. PennDOT also now processes licenses for ATVs and snowmobiles, freeing up staff at DCNR. The Department is looking into a similar arrangement with the PA Fish and Boat Commission.

Mr. Mallory reported that the Department exceeded its goal on disadvantaged businesses.

Deputy Secretary for Highway Administration

Deputy Secretary Scott Christie delivered a brief report for the Highway Administration deputation highlighting safety trends, structurally deficient bridges, asphalt prices, winter services, and project delivery. Mr. Christie noted that highway fatalities have dropped, but in four areas, the numbers have leveled off: elderly drivers, motorcyclists, people who do not use seatbelts, and distracted drivers due to texting.

Mr. Christie noted there were areas for improvement in project delivery. The bridge program continues to target the number of structurally deficient bridges. The program must rehabilitate 300 bridges a year to ensure the overall number continues to drop.

Deputy Secretary for Driver and Vehicle Services

Deputy Secretary Kurt Myers delivered a brief report for Driver and Vehicle Services. Act 89 fee changes have been implemented, such as the civil penalty in lieu of a three-month driver's registration suspension. The civil penalty is \$500, and with over 300 people, taking advantage of the program the Department has netted \$150,000 in additional revenues. The ability to pay the penalty is available via credit card.

Driver and Vehicle Services are in the process of completing the implementation of the additional five dollar county registration fee. Three counties have instituted the fees: Cumberland, Fulton, and Blair.

Another major change with Act 89 is the Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustment for all fees in the vehicle code. These will go into effect on July 1, 2015 based on the urban CPI for the previous year and fees will be adjusted every two years based on CPI.

Mr. Myers updated the TAC on the Veteran's Trust Fund, stating that it has raised \$1.7 million for the purposes of supporting veterans throughout the Commonwealth. In addition, 117,000 veterans have taken advantage of the indicator for driver's licenses.

Mr. Myers delivered a brief report on REAL-ID. Pennsylvania law prevents the Commonwealth from participating in this Federal law. The requirement that a REAL-ID compliant Identification Card is necessary to enter a nuclear power plant is in effect; however, the requirement for boarding a commercial airliner is not in effect and enforcement is not likely until 2016 or thereafter.

Deputy Secretary for Multimodal Transportation

Deputy Secretary Toby Fauver delivered a brief report for the Multimodal deputate, highlighting the deputate's efforts to hire a new bicycle and pedestrian coordinator. In addition, transit consolidation studies are underway. Consolidations will enable the Commonwealth's transit agencies to save funds. The human service pilot program for Shared Ride, an advisory committee written into Act 89, will begin in March. Transit systems will propose different ways to fund Shared Ride programs instead of relying on fare reimbursements.

The Multimodal Deputate will be interviewing four compressed natural gas providers as part of a public-private partnership agreement. This would enable transit agencies to convert their bus fleets to compressed natural gas.

The rail freight assistance program and the intermodal cargo incentive program are Rail Freight and Ports initiatives.

Mr. Fauver stated that Silver Airlines was selected to provide the Essential Air Service for the smaller air service. Silver Airlines will keep their maintenance facility at Dubois Airport.

Lastly, Mr. Fauver highlighted FindMyRidePA.com, a trip planner that displays a range of options for users that include bus, taxi, shared ride and volunteer services. The website is a pilot program being tested in York County and will expand to cover Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lebanon and Franklin Counties. Medical facilities, career centers and other users can schedule transportation.

Deputy Secretary for Planning

Deputy Secretary Jim Ritzman delivered a brief report for the Planning deputate and discussed federal reauthorization. The President's highway and transit bill proposes spending \$478 billion over six years. Of this amount, \$240 billion would be from the federal gas tax and \$238 billion would come from repatriated foreign profits. He stated that the Federal highway trust fund has a \$7 billion balance. The Federal highway trust fund needs about \$168 billion in additional revenues over ten years to remain solvent and maintain current levels of spending.

Mr. Ritzman noted PUB 600, the Highway Statistics Report for 2014, which was provided for TAC members at the meeting.

The Comprehensive Freight Movement Plan was to be released by mid-February.

OTHER BUSINESS:

TAC 2015 Agenda

Chairman Lou Schultz

Chairman Schultz delivered a presentation on the TAC's 2015 agenda, beginning with a definition of the TAC's roles. A copy of the presentation was provided for TAC members present at the meeting. Act 120 of 1970 defines the TAC's role in relation to the Department and the State Transportation Commission. Mr. Schultz discussed the revised TAC Study topic process, introduced in April 2014.

There was a discussion of 2014's potential study topics. TAC Modernization, TAC General On-Call Support and the Transportation Performance Report were identified in 2014 as recommended for study. Topics proposed and recommended for future consideration were Energy Saving Transportation Design and Increased Truck Weights on State Roadways. New topics proposed and recommended for future consideration were a study on the rollout of alternative fueling in Pennsylvania, improved mobility for the elderly, autonomous vehicle policy, the convergence of public health and transportation, and the risks and consequences of the proliferation of smart devices in vehicles.

The 2015 TAC schedule was discussed and Mr. Schultz highlighted the selected issues developed and identified during the 2014 Advisory Committees modernization initiative, including a New Member Orientation Program.

The TAC discussed changing the mandatory February meeting date and using existing technology such as a conference call to improve meeting format and encourage attendance. A mandatory February conference call would not require a legislative change, however changing the date would.

ON A MOTION by Mr. Jack Rutter, seconded by Mr. Thomas Geanopoulos, and approved by a unanimous vote, the TAC voted to investigate changing the legislative mandate for the February TAC meeting.

TAC CURRENT STUDIES:

2015 Transportation Performance Report Review

Mr. Keith Chase, Gannett Fleming and Mr. Michael Davidson, Gannett Fleming

Mr. Keith Chase and Mr. Michael Davidson presented a detailed review of the 2015 Transportation Performance Report (TPR).

The Transportation Performance Report's focus areas are:

- Safety
- Mobility
- Preservation and Renewal
- Accountability
- Funding

The Transportation Performance Report builds on the 2013 Transportation Performance Report, which was a high-level snapshot of the Commonwealth's transportation system and was the first of its kind for the state. The 2013 TPR was used in the development of the 2015 Twelve Year Program.

The 2015 TPR will be presented for approval to the State Transportation Commission (STC). After their acceptance, it will be released to the General Assembly and the public via the STC's website at www.talkpatransportation.com.

Mr. Thomas Geanopoulos asked how the jobs numbers, discussed under the funding focus areas, were generated. Mr. Nolan Ritchie stated that for every \$1 billion invested in transportation, 50,000 jobs would be generated and that he would provide the study that referenced this. Mr. Paul Opiyo asked what model was used and Mr. Ritchie stated he would follow up with him.

Mr. Ron Wagenmann asked if local structurally deficient bridges only included those over twenty feet in length. Chairman Schultz replied yes, since that is all the data that is available. Chairman Schultz and Mr. Ritzman stated the Department was undertaking an effort to map all local bridges between eight and twenty feet, and Mr. Ritzman further clarified funding options for these types of bridges.

Mr. Gustave Scheerbaum asked about pedestrian fatalities on rural roads and how rural was defined. Mr. Chase stated that the measure for pedestrian fatalities depended on how it was classified in the Department's data. Mr. Scheerbaum stated that geographic characterization may not be accurate and Mr. Chase replied that in future iterations of the TPR, pedestrian fatalities could get a deeper look.

ON A MOTION by Mr. Ron Wagenmann, seconded by Mr. Gustave Scheerbaum, and approved by a unanimous vote, the 2015 Transportation Performance Report was approved and would be shared with the State Transportation Commission on February 19, 2015.

TAC FUTURE STUDY:

Developing the Framework for Bicycle and Pedestrian Policy

Mr. Keith Chase, Gannett Fleming and Mr. Jonathan Heilman, Gannett Fleming

Mr. Keith Chase and Mr. Jonathan Heilman presented the results of the scoping study approved by TAC at the December meeting. Mr. Chase stated that the three-week study developed an issues framework for the TAC to consider in developing a possible PennDOT bicycle and pedestrian policy study.

The work group conducted twenty-one interviews from a wide swath of the transportation community. From these interviews, a list of all identified issues was compiled. A focus group of fourteen stakeholders reviewed the draft issue statements and rated these issues on a four-point scale based on the impact that each issue has on bicyclists and pedestrians. A PennDOT Resource Group provided further clarification, validation, and additional issues. This process identified a list of 52 issues. The Issues Framework Draft was provided to each TAC member at the meeting.

The issue statements were broken up into the following groups:

- Funding and Resources
- Planning/Policy
- Project Development
- Maintenance and Operation
- Enforcement/Legal
- Safety
- Accommodation/Existing Conditions

Mr. Chase highlighted the recommended next steps:

- A decision on whether to proceed with a bicycle and pedestrian study,
- Development of a task force,
- Review draft objectives ,
- Develop scope and schedule supporting final objectives.

Mr. Scheerbaum started the TAC dialogue with a discussion of priorities for safety in transportation with bicyclists and pedestrians. Great strides in safety have been made for motor vehicles but not necessarily for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Mr. Geanopulos stated that the bicycle and pedestrian issue was no different from local government and traffic signals, and required a great deal of cooperation. In addition, in rural areas, bike paths can be constructed more easily because of the availability of right of way that does not exist in urban areas.

ON A MOTION by Mr. Michael Untermeyer, seconded by Mr. Tom Geanopulos and approved by a unanimous vote, the TAC accepted the Bicycle and Pedestrian and Bicycle Occupancy scoping study and approved the study for work.

NEXT MEETING:

The next TAC business meeting is Thursday, April 9, 2015 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania at the Keystone Building.

ADJOURNMENT:

ON A MOTION by Mr. Joseph Mangarella, seconded by Mr. Gustave Scheerbaum, and unanimously approved, The TAC meeting adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

Attendance from the TAC Business Meeting
February 2, 2015

1. Ms. Leslie Richards, Acting Secretary of Transportation
2. Mr. Lou Schultz, TAC Chairman
3. Mr. Jack Rutter, TAC member
4. Ms. Beth Sickler, alternate for Mr. Dave Hickernell, TAC member
5. Mr. Paul Opiyo, alternate for Mr. Dennis Davin, TAC member
6. Mr. Rodney Bender, TAC member
7. Mr. Joe Mangarella, TAC member
8. Mr. Donald Detwiler, TAC member
9. Mr. Tom Geanopulos, TAC member
10. Mr. Gustave Scheerbaum, TAC member
11. Mr. Michael Untermeyer, TAC member
12. Mr. Keith Chase, Gannett Fleming
13. Mr. Michael Davidson, Gannett Fleming
14. Mr. Jonathan Heilman, Gannett Fleming
15. Ms. Leanne Doran, McCormick Taylor
16. Mr. Kurt Myers, PennDOT
17. Mr. Gavin Gray, PennDOT
18. Mr. Dale Witmer, PennDOT
19. Mr. Jim Arey, PennDOT
20. Mr. Kenneth Druckenmiller, PennDOT
21. Mr. Mark Tobin, PennDOT
22. Mr. Larry Shifflet, PennDOT
23. Ms. Jessica Clark, PennDOT
24. Ms. Julie Harmantzis, PennDOT
25. Mr. Martin Sargent, PennDOT
26. Mr. Terry Pinder, PennDOT