

PENNSYLVANIA STATE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
BUSINESS MEETING
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
JULY 18TH, 2019



CALL TO ORDER:

A quarterly business meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was called to order at 10:02 a.m. on July 18, 2019, in Harrisburg, PA.

MINUTES:

ON A MOTION by Ms. Sandberg and seconded by Mr. Porter, and unanimously approved, the Minutes of April 11, 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 the appointment of Mr. Larry Shifflet as the new Deputy Secretary of Planning at PennDOT and the retirement of Martin Sargent, who is retiring from the Department after 30 years of service.

Ms. Holton also gave some updates related to the 2021 TYP Update Outreach Campaign, which include:

- The increase of participation by 33% from 2017 (6,400 participants in 2019)
- The increase of participants under 25-years-old by 66% from 2017 (254 in participants in 2019)
- Nearly 2,500 mapped transportation issues received; 425 of which were already addressed by planned PennDOT projects
- 77% of participants reported driving alone, 51% reported walking and/or bicycling and 19% reported using public transit and/or passenger rail often or every day
- The budgeting tool results demonstrated a consensus between PennDOT and the participants that maintenance should receive the most funding followed by Ride More, Drive Less.

NEW TAC MEMBER INTRODUCTION

Ms. Holton introduced new member, Mr. Alan Blahovec. Mr. Blahovec is from Westmoreland County.

SECRETARY'S REMARKS

Executive Deputy Secretary, Yassmin Gramian provided brief remarks on behalf of Secretary Leslie S. Richards. Ms. Gramian praised the work of the men and women at PennDOT. She discussed the various studies the Department has undertaken to solve ongoing transportation funding issues. She noted that several funding alternatives are being considered.

Ms. Gramian also discussed the Spring Planning Partners meeting and the new Financial Guidance.

Representative Tim Hennessey asked about the status of transportation funding for the new fiscal year.

Mr. Shifflet commented that inflation has decreased the buying power and the revenue projections from the treasury are expected to decline.

Mr. Chuck Zimmerman added that the General Fund will increase but the Motor License Fund will at best remain flat.

MOBILITY PARTNERSHIPS: By Larry Bankert, Michael Baker International

Mr. Larry Bankert gave a presentation about the Southeast and the Southwest Partnerships for Mobility reports released earlier this year.

Mr. Bankert explained the objectives of the Mobility Partnerships, which include: enhancing services, maintaining the system, creating an inclusive economic growth, and increasing economic competitiveness of the regions.

Mr. Bankert described the Southeast Partnerships for Mobility as a collaboration between the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC) and Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority (SEPTA) in coordination with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT). He noted that the Partnership was created in late 2017 to develop a blueprint to meet the region's growing mobility challenges and to develop potential solutions to address the impacts of changes coming to Act 44 public transportation funding sources.

Mr. Bankert indicated the Southwest Partnership for Mobility is a collaboration between the PTC, Port Authority of Allegheny County, and PennDOT. This group is charged with addressing the challenges facing the region's transportation system and providing a framework for state elected officials as they address the need for dedicated, annual statewide funding.

Mr. Bankert discussed the Key Findings and Next Steps from the reports. He said that Act 44 of 2007 and Act 89 of 2013 stipulate that in 2022, PTC's annual payment to PennDOT will be reduced from \$450 to \$50 million per year through 2057 and the burden for the difference will transfer to the state's General Fund. Therefore, the time to find a solution is now.

Specifically, the reports recommended two actions to address the region's transportation funding challenges:

- **Fix Pennsylvania Act 44 of 2007.** Stabilize statewide public transportation funding without the current structure that relies on payments from PTC. This will ease PTC's debt burden and need for future toll increases without adversely affecting the operational stability or progress provided by Act 89 of 2013, and also allow the PTC to continue expanding and maintaining its system.
- **Fund projects to maintain the region's competitiveness.** Pass enabling legislation to allow the region's residents and local officials to explore locally-enacted revenue sources. This will allow local officials to make decisions about investments in additional projects to accommodate and accelerate regional growth.

Mr. Bankert also discussed the need to ease the pressure from the PTC and its customers from Act 44. He explained that the report makes it clear that the state's current system for financing transit statewide, which is heavily dependent on Turnpike tolls, is increasingly at risk. The PTC needs to provide relief to its customers from excessive toll hikes and make critical investments in new interchanges to power economic growth across our entire commonwealth. He added that the reports recommend that the legislature consider alternative funding sources and timing in order to maintain the baseline of \$450 million to support Pennsylvania's public transportation systems.

Mr. Mark Murawski commented about the need to build a partnership between the local governments and the state for these recommendations to be implemented.

Ms. Karina Ricks commented that the reports don't provide any timeline for the legislative steps that should come next.

Mr. Shifflet indicated that it is up to the Legislature to come up with a framework to implement the recommendations.

Mr. Nolan Ritchie commented that Senator Ward's proposal has not gotten enough support in the Senate.

ENHANCED COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION

The TAC continues to work to implement the recommendations and proposed ideas from the Enhanced Communication and Collaboration (ECC) Initiative. Amanda Shaffer from McCormick Taylor provided an update on the drafts of the Memorandum of Understanding, the Charter, and the Bylaws as developed by the ECC Subcommittee. The drafts will be reviewed by the Department's Office of Chief Counsel.

2019 TAC STUDY TOPIC IDENTIFICATION

The TAC selected nine study topics from the framework and submitted to TAC members for further ranking. The complete ranking is shown below:

1. *Develop A Statewide Small Local Bridge Investment Plan (2016)*
2. *Utilities in State Right-of-Way (2016)*
3. *Importance of and Funding for Pedestrian Networks (2019)*
4. *Drugged Driving (2017)*
5. *Linking Planning Between the MPC and the MPO/RPO (2019)*

6. *Improving Driver License/Vehicle Registration Customer Experience (2019)*
7. *Feasibility of Air Freight Expansion at Underutilized Airports and Development of Inland Ports (2019)*
8. *Evaluating Impact of Act 13 - Marcellus Shale Related Transportation Funds Provided to Communities (2019)*
9. *De-Carbonizing the Transportation System (2019)*

During the meeting, TAC Members discussed each of the topics and benefit of completing a study at this time.

Ms. Leanne Doran explained the different topics and the voting criteria.

Mr. Ritchie provided some clarification regarding Senator Ward's proposed study topics.

Ms. Emily Watts noted that the Department is working with the Georgetown Climate Center on how to decrease its carbon footprint. Therefore, there is no need for another study about decarbonizing the transportation system.

Deputy Secretary Jennie Granger commented about different ongoing studies on ports and airports. She noted that the Department is comfortable if the Air Freight expansion topic is tabled.

Mr. Ritchie commented about the Availability of tools to report issues on the Highways topic.

Deputy Secretary George McAuley noted that there are ongoing initiatives to improve the overall interactions with the customer care staff.

Mr. Hennessey proposed to include electric scooters in the conversation.

Following the discussion, all members voted on the 10 topics with the understanding that the two topics with the most first place votes would be moved on for final consideration by the Department to become the next TAC studies.

The top ranked topics are expected to be endorsed by the Department following the meeting:

1. *Develop A Statewide Small Local Bridge Investment Plan (2016)*
2. *Utilities in State Right-of-Way (2016).*

A scope will be developed for the first topic and will be discussed at the October 10, 2019, TAC meeting.

PA Department of Transportation Update:

Drivers and Vehicles Services

Deputy Secretary Kurt Myers gave a brief report saying that PennDOT began the issuance of REAL ID products. Mr. Myers noted that PennDOT has so far issued 153,000 REAL IDs.

Mr. Myers also discussed the Pilot Project for the Digital License Plate. He added that a legislation will be needed if the Pilot Project is conclusive and the Department decided to implement it.

Mr. Don Detweiler asked if the public is aware that the Real ID is already available?

Mr. Myers answered that an extensive communication campaign was conducted and is still ongoing to let people know that they will soon need a Real ID to board commercial flights and Federal Facilities.

Highway and Bridge Program

Deputy Secretary George McAuley gave a brief report in which he discussed the Automated Work Zone Speed Enforcement Pilot. Mr. McAuley stated that the pilot project is moving forward.

Mr. McAuley also noted that flood events are becoming a critical issue and extreme weather impacts of the Transportation System is currently being studied.

Mr. Murawski asked if the Department is looking at any specific ways to prevent landslides?

Mr. McAuley answered that PennDOT District 11-0 is looking at ways to prevent them. He added that drainage monitoring is one of the options.

OTHER BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Neil Ward from the Commuter Rail Association of Lancaster commented about the need for funding for the Keystone System, which he said is very important for the Lancaster Area. Mr. Ward also talked about the new Driver Licensing Center in Lancaster.

Mr. Jeffery Iseman from the Pennsylvania Statewide Independent Living Council commented about the PADHS study on Aging and Transportation. Mr. Iseman said that he thinks people with disabilities should be included in the ongoing study, which the Department of Human Services is leading.

Mr. Hennessey commented that he doesn't think PADHS want to take the lead role in the aging and transportation study at all. He added that the TAC should get involved in the study.

NEXT MEETING:

The next TAC business meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, October 10, 2019**, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

ADJOURNMENT:

ON A MOTION by Mr. Murawski and seconded by Mr. Hennessey, the TAC meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Attendance* from the TAC Business Meeting
July 17, 2019

1. Ms. Jody Holton, Chair
2. Mr. Michael Carroll, TAC member
3. Ms. Brenda Sandberg, TAC member
4. Mr. Ashley Porter, TAC member
5. Ms. Felicia Dell, TAC member
6. Ms. Karina Ricks, TAC member
7. Mr. Donald Detwiler, TAC Member
8. Mr. John Pocius, TAC member
9. Mr. Jeff Stroehmann, TAC member
10. Mr. Mark Murawski, TAC member
11. Mr. Nolan Ritchie, alternate for Ms. Kim Ward, TAC member
12. Mr. Tim Hennessey, TAC member
13. Mr. David Valkman, alternate for Mr. Pedro Rivera, TAC member
14. Mr. Paul Opiyo, alternate for Mr. Dennis Davin, TAC member
15. Ms. Tiffany Landis, alternate for Mr. Patrick McDonnell, TAC member
16. Ms. Stacia Ritter, Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission
17. Ms. Sarah Clark, PennDOT
18. Ms. Yassmin Gramian, PennDOT
19. Mr. George McAuley, P.E., PennDOT
20. Ms. Jennie Granger, AICP, PennDOT
21. Ms. Emily Watts, PennDOT
22. Ms. Natasha Fackler, PennDOT
23. Mr. Larry Shifflet, PennDOT
24. Ms. Amanda Shaffer, McCormick Taylor
25. Ms. Christi Sabb, McCormick Taylor
26. Ms. Leanne Doran, Michael Baker Int'l
27. Mr. Brian Funkhouser, Michael Baker Int'l
28. Mr. Troy Truex, Michael Baker Int'l
29. Mr. Tim Smith, Gannett Fleming
30. Mr. Keith Chase, Gannett Fleming
31. Mr. Mark Tobin, PennDOT
32. Ms. Jessica Clark, PennDOT
33. Mr. Abdoul Ahmed, PennDOT
34. Mr. Terry Pinder, PennDOT
35. Mr. Martin Sargent, PennDOT
36. Ms. Karen Heath, PennDOT

**Attendance includes members present via conference call.*