

PENNSYLVANIA STATE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
BUSINESS MEETING
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
OCTOBER 8, 2015



CALL TO ORDER:

A quarterly business meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was held on October 8, 2015 at the Keystone Building in Harrisburg, PA. A conference call option was also provided for this meeting. Chairman Lou Schultz began the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

Chairman Lou Schultz introduced Mr. Mark Murawski from Lycoming County as the newest member of TAC. Seven terms, however, are still up for reappointment though the members will continue to serve until replaced. Mr. Schultz also introduced TAC's new Executive Secretary, Ellen Sweeney, who took over for Julie Harmantzis and Roy Gothie, the Department's new Bicycle and Pedestrian coordinator.

Mr. Schultz stated that the second phase of the Modernization of Advisory Committees initiative is in the preliminary stages of moving forward.

MINUTES:

ON A MOTION by Mr. Ron Wagenmann and seconded by Mr. Jack Rutter, and unanimously approved, the minutes of the April 9, 2015 TAC Business Meeting were accepted as written.

SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION'S REMARKS:

Secretary Leslie Richards delivered a brief report on Pope Francis' visit to Philadelphia and the budget. The Pope's visit to Philadelphia was a success and the Secretary praised the efforts of everyone who helped make the visit a success for the city of Philadelphia and the Commonwealth.

Secretary Richard stated that she was in the process of visiting every PennDOT district; however, the travel ban imposed due to the budget crisis had put a stop to that.

In addition, the Secretary mentioned a potential funding problem for the Department. A significant and increasing portion of the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) budget comes from the Motor License Fund, which will erode the gains created by Act 89 over time. The Department and the Pennsylvania State Police are searching for a sustainable solution that would benefit both the Department and the State Police.

There was a discussion about municipal government use of the PSP for local policing, an increasingly common option in the Commonwealth. Mr. Mark Murawski asked if there was any political will to get local governments to contribute if they chose PSP for local policing as it is

currently offered at no cost to them. Representative Julie Harhart stated that she would bring this issue up with the House Majority Transportation Chair. Mr. Nolan Ritchie also stated that there was a research project underway to locate alternate funding for the State Police and, in addition, fines raised from work zone violations could be part of a funding package. Senate Bill 840 would create a pilot program for automated work zone enforcement.

PA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION UPDATE:

Mr. Roy Gothie introduced himself to the TAC and gave a brief report on his background in transportation and his duties within the Department.

Deputy Secretary for Highway Administration

Deputy Secretary Scott Christie was not in attendance. Chairman Schultz delivered a brief report on his behalf, stating that the Department was on track to bid \$2.5 billion in projects for 2015, including the rehabilitation or replacement of 350 bridges.

Deputy Secretary for Planning

Deputy Secretary Jim Ritzman delivered a brief report for the Office of Planning. He stated that a new electronic system was being implemented that would eliminate the need to walk documents by hand to FHWA. The Highway Trust Fund will be solvent through June 2016. He also stated Federal transportation funding was operating under a continuing resolution.

The Fall Planning Partner's meeting was changed to a conference call due to the travel ban.

Mr. Ritzman highlighted www.projects.penndot.gov, which shows the public where construction activity is located around the state, in addition to an Act 89 progress report. These can be sorted by county, MPO/RPO, and legislative district. Projects are displayed by where they are in the Twelve Year Program development process.

The STIC web viewer was also highlighted. The STIC web viewer displays where innovations created by the STIC are being implemented in transportation projects throughout the state.

Mr. Ritzman stated that MPMS-IQ now has a version formatted for mobile devices to work with smartphones and tablets. This was created in-house and was a low-cost solution.

The first Rapid Bridge Replacement program bridge opened for traffic on August 31, 2015, and the P3 program will replace about 50 bridges in calendar year 2015. There are 558 bridges due to be replaced by the Rapid Bridge Replacement program by calendar year 2017.

TAC CURRENT STUDIES:

Bicycle Pedestrian Accommodations Study

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

Mr. Jonathan Heilman of Gannett Fleming presented the Bicycle Pedestrian Accommodations Policy Study. The study kicked off on September 30, 2015, with a meeting of the Study Working Group.

The Policy Study is now in Phase 2. The project methodology will be:

- Issues identification

- Development of Problem Statements
- Analysis of Problem Statements
- Identification of Options
- Evaluation of Options
- Draft Policy
- Validate and Test

The project structure and oversight will consist of the TAC, a Project Working Group and a Policy group. The Working Group consists of 22 members and will meet about six times (approximately once a month). They will provide direct input and decision-making. The Policy Group consists of the Deputy Secretaries and the special assistants to the Secretary. They will meet approximately three times at key project milestones and will provide high-level direction and leadership.

The project is to be completed by the end of June.

Phase 1 developed 48 issues statements that can fit into six categories:

- Funding and Resources
- Coordinated Planning
- Project Development
- Maintenance and Operations
- Safety, Public Awareness, Enforcement, and Legal
- Miscellaneous

The Issue Statement Review used the Four C model: clarify, combine, create, and critique. Problem statements were then crafted from the issue statements and 11 draft problem statements were created during the September 30, 2015 working group meeting.

Mr. Keith Chase stepped through all of the draft problem statements and held a question and answer session with the TAC.

The next step will be to analyze the 11 problem statements created.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Joseph Mangarella raised concerns with the direction of the Modernization of Advisory Committees initiative. He stated that TAC should be excluded from the modernization process, as it would compromise the independence of the TAC.

Chairman Schultz clarified that the advisory committees are legislatively established and the modernization process began with possibly making legislative changes to the committees. The committees are modal oriented. The idea of modernization was not to challenge the independence of TAC but was to make communication between the committees and with PennDOT more efficient and effective.

Mr. Nolan Ritchie stated that the change to the legislatively mandated February meeting from a physical meeting to a conference call is an example of modernization.

Chairman Schultz stated that communication is one of the key components of this modernization initiative. There is a significant communications gap between the many committees, and many are unaware of the functions of the other advisory committees.

Mr. Ritchie stated that some advisory committees are more active than others.

Mr. Mangarella asked why the modal advisory committee groups were created by the legislature. Ms. Jessica Clark stated that each advisory committee was created because it has a specific modal mission and one of the first phases of the modernization initiative was to deeply examine the missions of each advisory committee, including TAC. She mentioned the modernization of the State Transportation Commission, which has made the STC much more effective.

Mr. Mark Murawski stated that he is the vice-chair of the state aviation committee and that they have not met in two years. Communication between that committee and the Department is poor and the members lack guidance on the committee's future. Chairman Schultz stated that communication and dialogue is key. He suggested that TAC become the umbrella organization for the modal committees for better communication, coordination and interaction. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Policy study is an example of communication between TAC, the Department, and the Pedalcycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

After discussion on abolishing committees that have not met in a few years, Representative Julie Harhart asked if the legislative transportation committee chairs had been consulted on eliminating some committees. Chairman Schultz stated that they were and nothing was off the table and that Secretary Richards is on board with modernization of the advisory committees.

NEXT MEETING:

The next TAC business meeting is Thursday, December 10, 2015 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania at the Keystone Building.

ADJOURNMENT:

ON A MOTION by Mr. Tom Geanopulos, seconded by Mr. Ron Wagenmann, and unanimously approved, The TAC meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

Attendance* from the TAC Business Meeting
October 8, 2015

1. Mr. Lou Schultz, TAC Chairman
2. Ms. Leslie Richards, Secretary of Transportation
3. Mr. Jack Rutter, TAC member
4. Ms. Julie Harhart, House of Representative, TAC member
5. Mr. Paul Opiyo, alternate for Mr. Dennis Davin, TAC member
6. Mr. Scott Dunkelberger, TAC member
7. Mr. Rodney Bender, TAC member
8. Mr. Joe Mangarella, TAC member
9. Mr. Donald Detwiler, TAC member
10. Mr. Ron Wagenmann, TAC member
11. Mr. Joel McNeil, TAC member
12. Mr. Tom Geanopulos, TAC member
13. Mr. Gustave Scheerbaum, TAC member
14. Mr. Jeffery Stroehmann, TAC member
15. Mr. Fred Strathmeyer, Jr, TAC member
16. Mr. Jeffery Means, TAC member
17. Mr. Nolan Ritchie, alternate for Senator John Rafferty, TAC member
18. Ms. Lisa Dorman, alternate for DCED Secretary, TAC Member
19. Mr. David Volkman, TAC member
20. Mr. Keith Chase, Gannett Fleming
21. Mr. Jonathan Heilman, Gannett Fleming
22. Ms. Leanne Doran, McCormick Taylor
23. Mr. Jim Ritzman, PennDOT
24. Mr. Toby Fauver, PennDOT
25. Mr. Mark Tobin, PennDOT
26. Mr. Roy Gothie, PennDOT
27. Mr. Larry Shifflet, PennDOT
28. Ms. Jessica Clark, PennDOT
29. Ms. Ellen Sweeney, PennDOT
30. Mr. Martin Sargent, PennDOT
31. Mr. Terry Pinder, PennDOT

*Attendance includes members present via conference call.