

PENNSYLVANIA STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA  
FEBRUARY 17, 2017  
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**CALL TO ORDER:**

Secretary Leslie Richards convened a quarterly business meeting of the Pennsylvania State Transportation Commission (STC) at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 17, 2017 in Harrisburg, PA.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Commissioners Present:**

Honorable Leslie S. Richards, Chairwoman  
Honorable Robert B. Pease, P.E., Vice Chairman, via phone  
Honorable Edward J. Cernic, Sr.  
Honorable Ronald J. Drnevich  
Honorable William F. Keller, alternate present  
Honorable James D. Kingsborough  
Honorable George M. Khoury  
Honorable Sharon L. Knoll, via phone  
Honorable Frank E. Paczewski  
Honorable John C. Rafferty, alternate present  
Honorable John Sabatina, alternate present  
Honorable John Taylor, alternate present  
Honorable Frederic M. Wentz

**MINUTES:**

**ON A MOTION** by Commissioner Wentz seconded by Commissioner Cernic, and unanimously approved, the minutes of the December 15, 2016, STC quarterly business meeting were accepted.

**SECRETARY'S REMARKS:**

Secretary Richards delivered brief opening remarks, discussing PennDOT Connects and the state budget hearings. PennDOT Connects formal rollout will occur in late February, and will involve municipalities, planning partners, and the Districts. The Secretary also mentioned that traffic accidents have increased and that she would be following up with the Safety staff to find out more about the cause of the increase.

**TWELVE YEAR TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM:**

**2017 Highway and Bridge Program Adjustments/Major Project Adjustments**

Deputy Secretary Jim Ritzman presented the 2017 Highway and Bridge Program adjustments, stating that between November 24, 2016 and January 27, 2017 there were 857 program adjustments:

- 418 Project/Phase Additions
- 334 Project/Phase Changes
- 61 Project/Phase Deletions
- 44 Adjustments to Funding Line Items

Mr. Ritzman explained that repurposed earmarks comprised \$128.1 million, and \$87.8 million of that total have been repurposed. They made up the bulk for the major changes for this quarter.

**ON A MOTION** and unanimously approved, the 2017 Highway and Bridge TYP Adjustments/Major Project Adjustments were accepted as presented.

### **Aviation Four Year Plan**

Mr. Anthony McCloskey presented the 2017 Aviation Four Year Plan. The plan approves 190 projects for the 2017 Four Year Plan. Mr. McCloskey explained many of the 190 projects were pavement and other maintenance type projects. The remainder were structural projects such as perimeter fences, snow removal projects, aviation planning projects, and navigational aids. In addition, the Bureau of Aviation is working to complete the State Airport System Plan.

Mr. Nolan Ritchie asked about the FAA's National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems Program and that they have identified 63 airports in Pennsylvania that will receive funding over the next four years, and whether there was any analysis of the FAA list against the state Four Year Plan. Mr. McCloskey said that the FAA receives its information from PennDOT's Bureau of Aviation and that he would follow up with Mr. Ritchie and the rest of the STC. Mr. Ritchie also asked about reactivating the Aviation Advisory Committee and the Rail Freight Advisory Committee. Mr. McCloskey stated that reactivating the committees are in the works.

Mr. Bugaile asked about Rail Freight Assistance Program Grants. Secretary Richards stated that she would follow up on the RFAP grants.

**ON A MOTION** by Commissioner Wentz and seconded by Commissioner Cernic, and unanimously approved, the 2017 Aviation Four Year Plan was accepted as presented.

### **WORKING SESSION**

#### **TAC 2017 Transportation Performance Report**

Jessica Clark presented the 2017 Transportation Performance Report.

The TPR is the first step in the Twelve-Year Program planning process. It evaluates performance and then is used to invite input from the public during the online public meeting and survey. That feedback is shared with PennDOT and the planning partners, and then projects are prioritized for the TIP and STIP. This becomes the 2019 Twelve Year Program.

The 2017 TPR uses visual and interactive content, as research indicates that visual and interactive contact is much more effective than text. People process video and images at a far

faster rate than text, and 93% of all communication is visual. Videos were produced for the TPR and these were shared.

The TPR provides a high-level snapshot of transportation system performance, reinforces transparency and accountability, highlights efficiency improvements and informs Twelve-Year program development.

The TPR's performance categories are Safety, Mobility, Preservation, Accountability, and Funding. The report tracks 39 measures, and 14 of them are new for the 2017 TPR. Ms. Clark highlighted a handful of measures from each category and a video for each category.

Commissioner Drnevich asked about automating the loan application and approval process mentioned in the GO-TIME initiative. Deputy Secretary Ritzman stated this was part of the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank (PIB) and that it loans about \$30 million per year.

Commissioner Khoury noted the Twelve-Year Program funding and the State Motor License Fund. The Twelve-Year Program funding is declining while the State Motor License Fund is growing steadily. Mr. Khoury noted that these can be conflicting statements. Secretary Richards stated that PennDOT is becoming as efficient as possible, and that the Department is helping the General fund with the State Police funding issue. This would help slow the decline in Twelve-Year Program funding.

Mr. Ritchie asked if the TAC TPR would be distributed to the General Assembly, and the staff said this would happen via email.

Mr. Cernic asked about State Police Funding. Secretary Richards stated that the State Police Funding was capped at \$802 million and the Governor is floating an idea of a \$25 per capita charge for municipalities who use the State Police as their primary policing force as part of the budget.

**ON A MOTION** by Mr. Ritchie seconded by Mr. Cernic, TAC's 2017 Transportation Performance Report was unanimously approved.

### **2017 Quarterly Meeting Locations**

#### **STC Business Meetings**

- **September 14, 2017**
  - Cranberry Township

**ON A MOTION** by Commissioner Wentz and seconded by Commissioner Cernic, the STC moved the September 21, 2017 Quarterly Business Meeting to September 14, 2017. It will be held in Cranberry Township, PA.

The Working Session included an outside speaker hosted by the Department, which the Commission attended. The Working Session and remainder of the meeting later commenced with a presentation about the 2019 Twelve Year Program.

## **2019 Twelve Year Program**

Ms. Lugene Keys of McCormick Taylor presented the 2019 Twelve Year Program update, highlighting the Online Public Meeting to be held on March 21, 2017, and the Survey Tool to be used during the Open Comment Period which opens on March 6, 2017.

The Survey tool was developed in house in response to feedback from the Planning Partners following the 2015 outreach effort. The survey asks users how they travel, their transportation priorities, how they would budget limited transportation dollars, and contains a mapping tool for users to map their projects. The project map page also links to the Department's MPMS-IQ system so if a mapping concern has a related project, the user can select that option. The survey tool then asks users for demographic information and then is complete.

The Open Public Comment period is March 6-April 19 2017, and the Open Public Meeting is March 21, 2017 from 6:30 to 7:30.

Commissioner Kingsborough asked how long the Department anticipates users to take the survey. Ms. Keys stated that the development team tested this and found ten minutes was about the average.

### **REPORTS:**

#### **Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)**

The TAC report stands as written.

#### **Administrative/Budget**

The Administrative/Budget report stands as written.

#### **Driver and Vehicle Services**

The Driver and Vehicle Services report stands as written.

#### **Highway and Bridge Program**

Deputy Secretary McAuley's report stands as written.

Commissioner Khoury noted the Bridge program and asked Deputy Secretary McAuley if Highway and Bridge had numbers tracking the trends of closed bridges. Mr. McAuley stated that the Highway and Bridge deputate tracks these trends.

#### **Multimodal Transportation**

Deputy Secretary Toby Fauver's report stands as written.

#### **Planning**

Deputy Secretary Ritzman's report stands as written.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Commissioner Khoury asked if the commission would be tasked with attending MPO/RPO meetings. Ms. Clark said yes, and that more information would be coming at the June Quarterly Business Meeting.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next STC quarterly business meeting is scheduled for Thursday June 15, 2017 in Clearfield, Pennsylvania.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**ON A MOTION** the STC quarterly business meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.