

PENNSYLVANIA STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
FEBRUARY 19, 2015
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CALL TO ORDER:

Acting Secretary of Transportation Leslie S. Richards convened a quarterly business meeting of the Pennsylvania State Transportation Commission (STC) at 10:05 a.m. on Thursday, February 19, 2015 in Harrisburg, PA.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present:

Honorable Leslie S. Richards, Acting Chairwoman
Honorable Robert B. Pease, P.E., Secretary, via conference call
Honorable Frederic M. Wentz
Honorable Edward J. Cernic, Sr.
Honorable Ronald J. Drnevich
Honorable William F. Keller
Honorable James D. Kingsborough
Honorable Charles C. Martin
Honorable Sharon L. Knoll, via conference call
Honorable Frank E. Paczewski
Honorable John Taylor
Honorable John N. Wozniak, alternate present

MINUTES:

ON A MOTION by Commissioner Cernic, seconded by Commissioner Wentz, and unanimously approved, the minutes of the December 11, 2014, STC quarterly business meeting were accepted as presented.

SECRETARY'S OPENING REMARKS:

Acting Secretary Richards introduced herself to the STC by describing her professional background, including two decades in the private sector and elected office in Montgomery County. She then asked the STC members to introduce themselves as well.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

ON A MOTION by Commissioner Drnevich and seconded by Commissioner Wentz, Commissioner Pease was nominated as Vice Chairman and confirmed by unanimous vote.

ON A MOTION by Commissioner Knoll and seconded by Commissioner Cernic, Commissioner Wentz was nominated as Secretary and confirmed by unanimous vote.

TWELVE YEAR TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM:

2015 Highway and Bridge Program Adjustments/Major Project Adjustments

Presented by Deputy Secretary for Planning James Ritzman

Deputy Secretary Jim Ritzman presented the 2015 Highway and Bridge Program Adjustments and Major Project Adjustments, stating that between December 1, 2014 and January 30, 2015 there were 821 program changes.

He discussed and explained statewide line items. He highlighted the TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) and the HSIP (Highway Safety Improvement Program) set-aside reserve line items. Funds are drawn down from the line items and added to regional TIPS when projects with those funding categories are programmed.

Mr. Ritzman highlighted the York Heritage Trail and the Hanover adaptive signals projects in the York MPO. These projects were advanced via use of statewide line items.

Mr. Ritzman stated there was a net reduction of \$10 million for the overall program and that this was unusual. This reduction is due to how funds are accounted for. Local bridge inspections, for example, are funded with statewide capital bridge funds and county maintenance funds. PennDOT changed its approach and did not use county maintenance funds. Local bridge inspections are now funded with federal funds and state capital funds, and the county maintenance funds were returned to the counties.

ON A MOTION by Commissioner Wentz, seconded by Commissioner Cernic, and unanimously approved, the 2015 Highway and Bridge TYP Adjustments/Major Project Adjustments were accepted as presented.

2015 Aviation Four-Year Plan

Presented by Jennie Granger, Director, Bureau of Aviation

Bureau Director for Aviation Jennie Granger delivered the 2015 Aviation Four-Year Plan. The plan consists of new projects or new phases to projects. The projects are funded via federal block grants.

Commissioner Drnevich asked about projects that were removed from the Four Year Plan. Ms. Granger stated that projects that were removed were already funded or the airport chose to end the project. Commissioner Kingsborough discussed the projects regarding Carlisle Airport as an example. Depending on availability of funds, airport projects can be delayed or rescheduled.

ON A MOTION by Commissioner Wentz, seconded by Commissioner Drnevich, and unanimously approved, the 2015 Aviation Four-Year Plan was accepted as presented.

WORKING SESSION

2015 Transportation Performance Report

Mr. Keith Chase and Mr. Mike Davidson of Gannett Fleming presented the completed 2015 Transportation Performance Report. The TAC approved the Transportation Performance Report on February 2, 2015.

The Transportation Performance Report's focus areas are:

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

These focus areas cover 28 separate measures and Mr. Mike Davidson featured a number of measures under each, such as safety trends, mobility of travelers and freight, structurally deficient bridges, PennDOT innovations through Next Generation and the State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC), and funding via Act 89.

Commissioner Cernic asked about the use of old asphalt (warm mix asphalt is a STIC initiative) from road millings. Mr. Christie stated that road millings are reused and they are accounted for.

Commissioner Drnevich commented that the report is very well done and asked if there had been feedback from the MPOs and RPOs and PennDOT districts. Ms. Jessica Clark stated that there had been a great deal of feedback from the districts and the MPOs/RPOs and it all had been positive.

Commissioner Wentz asked how the team calculated that the Department saved \$100 million in 2014 via modernization. Mr. Chase stated that data was verified with PennDOT staff, and Mr. Nolan Ritchie of the Bureau of Innovation stated the data was collected based on the implementation of certain projects throughout the Department.

The TPR is available for download at www.talkpatransportation.com.

ON A MOTION by Commissioner Cernic, seconded by Commissioner Wentz, and unanimously approved, the 2015 Transportation Performance Report was accepted as presented.

2017 Twelve Year Program Public Comment Period

Ms. Jennifer Horn (McCormick Taylor) and Ms. Jessica Clark of PennDOT presented the 2017 Twelve Year Program Public Comment initiative.

The Public Participation process begins on April 16, 2015 with an online public meeting. An online survey will be launched that same day and will remain open through May 29, 2015. The input will be shared with the Planning Partners at the June Planning Partner's Meeting and the STC at its June business meeting.

The Transportation Performance Report (TPR) guides the survey. It will be accessible online at www.talkpatransportation.com and will be available in print by request. The online survey will be user-friendly and can reach a wider audience with its ability to run in a web browser, smartphone, or tablet. A new feature for the 2017 Public Comment Survey is the budget investment screen, which will ask the public about their transportation budget priorities. The survey features a map that will allow users to pinpoint transportation needs in their neighborhood.

The Online Public Meeting (April 16, 2015) will introduce the State Transportation Commission, present the TPR findings, promote feedback through the online survey, and accept questions and comments through an online chat. The meeting will be viewable online and is accessible through computers, smartphones, and tablets.

The data collected will be visualized via online interactive maps, which will be shared with our Planning Partners as they begin their planning process to develop their Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs). It will also be available for public consumption via the STC website, www.talkpatransportation.com.

The STC was asked to be involved in Planning Partner meetings. Each member is assigned to a planning partner in order to attend the pre-TIP public meetings. Toolkits for STC members will be shared at the June 18, 2015 STC Quarterly Meeting.

REPORTS:

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Mr. Lou Shultz, TAC Chairman, discussed the Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodations Study, which will begin in mid-March pending the hire of a new bicycle and pedestrian coordinator. The study will be a deep comprehensive look at bicycle and pedestrians. The next TAC meeting will be on April 9, 2015 in 8N1 in the Keystone Building.

Administrative/Budget

Deputy Secretary Suzanne Itzko stated her report stands as submitted.

Driver and Vehicle Services

Deputy Secretary Kurt Myers presented the Driver and Vehicle Services report. The motorcycle safety program celebrated its 30th anniversary and added a number of new programs for three-wheeled motorcycles and a simulator for motorcycle falls.

A full reciprocity plan for the trucking industry went into place related to the international registration plan. It allows greater flexibility for truckers to operate in the US and in Canada.

As of January 1, 2015, three counties implemented the \$5 registration fee enabled by Act 89. Cumberland County's ordinance takes effect on April 7, 2015, Fulton County's ordinance takes effect on April 29, 2015 and Blair County's ordinance takes effect on May 1, 2015.

The \$500 civil penalty for failure to maintain automobile liability insurance in lieu of a three-month driver's registration suspension is in effect and the department has netted \$180,000 in additional revenues. The ability to pay the penalty is available via credit card.

Another major change with Act 89 is the Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustment for all fees in the vehicle code. This adjustment 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.

The Department opened a new photo-licensing co-location in Ardmore, sharing a building with AAA. This saves the Department \$42,000 annually in lease and occupancy costs as AAA is providing the building at no cost.

Commissioner Drnevich said that he took the motorcycle safety course and stated that it was enlightening.

Highway and Bridge Program

Deputy Secretary Scott Christie delivered a brief report for the Highway and Bridge Deputate, highlighting a few modernization and innovation efforts such as sharing stockpiles with the Turnpike, outdoor advertising, warm mix asphalt, and adaptive traffic signals.

Mr. Christie stated that PennDOT is addressing crash locations, which is aiding in the decline in traffic fatalities. The winter services costs are under the previous year's budget. In addition, the number of state structurally deficient bridges has fallen below 4,000, and Mr. Christie stated that there was a need to discuss with the MPOs about reconstructing bridges or rehabilitating them.

Mr. Christie stated that project lettings are being bid and constructed on time at a consistent rate.

Multimodal Transportation

Aviation Bureau Director Jennie Granger delivered a brief report for the Multimodal Transportation deputate. She highlighted the Intermodal Cargo Growth Incentive Program, which is designed to maximize the growth of container cargo through PA terminals that can handle containerized cargo. It will create 1,400 new jobs and the state provides \$25 per cargo unit as an incentive. She also stated that the Keystone West High Speed Rail service study has been released and is posted online. The Department is collecting comments until March 31, 2015.

Planning

Deputy Secretary Jim Ritzman delivered a brief report for the Planning Deputate. He highlighted Publication 600, the 2014 Highway Statistics Book. The book was provided to the Commission during the meeting.

Mr. Ritzman also highlighted the Highway Turnback Program, a small program that transfers ownership of functionally local state highways and bridges to municipalities.

Mr. Ritzman stated that Federal funding continues to be uncertain. MAP-21 expired on September 30, 2014 and was extended through May 31, 2015. The Highway Trust Fund, to

remain solvent, would need a 10 cents per gallon gas tax increase. Mr. Ritzman stated there was a proposal from the President for a new six-year transportation bill but there was not consensus from Congress on how to fund any new federal authorization legislation.

Public-Private Transportation Partnership (P3) Board

Mr. Bryan Kendro delivered a brief report for the P3 Board. The Rapid Bridge Replacement is on schedule. Plenary Walsh Keystone Partners is the contractor for the program and will replace up to 70 bridges in the first year. The program will replace 558 bridges by December 31, 2017.

Mr. Kendro highlighted the Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Fueling Stations project. The Department is working with 25 transit systems. The CNG fueling stations will enable transit systems to convert their fleets to CNG buses.

Commissioner Reports

No reports were offered during the Commissioner open comment period.

Open Public Comment

No comments were offered during the open public comment period.

NEXT MEETING:

The next STC quarterly business meeting is scheduled on Thursday, June 18, 2015, in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

ADJOURNMENT:

ON A MOTION by Commissioner Pease and seconded by Commissioner Cernic, the STC quarterly business meeting was adjourned at 12:09 p.m.