

PENNSYLVANIA STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
BUSINESS MEETING
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
DECEMBER 12, 2019



Please note that these minutes are not intended to capture every individual comment, but rather to identify critical discussion points and highlights of the STC business meetings.

CALL TO ORDER:

Secretary George M. Khoury convened the quarterly business meeting of the State Transportation Commission (STC) at 10:02 am on December 12, 2019, in Harrisburg, PA.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present in Person:

1. Honorable George M. Khoury, Secretary
2. Honorable Chad M. Amond
3. Honorable James D. Kingsborough
4. Honorable Frank E. Paczewski
5. Honorable Ronald J. Drnevich
6. Honorable Paige M. Willan
7. Honorable Tim Hennessey
 Mr. Josiah Shelly, Alternate Present
8. Honorable Michael Carroll
 Mr. Kyle Wagonseller, Alternate Present

Commissioners Present by Phone:

9. Honorable Sharon L. Knoll
10. Honorable Kim L. Ward
 Mr. Nolan Ritchie, Alternate Present

Commissioners Not Present

1. Honorable Yassmin Gramian, Acting Chair
2. Honorable John P. Sabatina

MINUTES:

ON A MOTION by Mr. Frank Paczewski and seconded by Mr. Jimmy Kingsborough, and unanimously approved, the September 19, 2019, STC business meeting minutes were accepted.

CHAIR'S REMARKS:

Mr. George Khoury welcomed Commissioners and guests to Harrisburg, PA. Mr. Khoury explained that Secretary Leslie S. Richards and STC Chair has accepted a position with SEPTA as the General Manager. Ms. Yassmin Gramian, the Acting Secretary for PennDOT and thereby Acting Chair for the STC had a previous engagement.

Senator Kim Ward introduced the newest STC Commissioner, Mr. Chad Amond. Mr. Amond is from Westmoreland County, PA. Senator Ward praised Mr. Amond's background as a member of the Chamber of Commerce in Westmoreland County.

ELECTION OF THE STC VICE CHAIR

An interim Election of Officers for the Vice Chair position took place. In accordance with the Administrative Code of 1929, Mr. Khoury asked for nominations to fill the STC Vice Chair role.

Mr. Ronald Drnevich nominated Ms. Sharon Knoll.

ON A MOTION by Mr. Ronald Drnevich and seconded by Mr. Frank Paczewski, and unanimously approved, Ms. Knoll was appointed as the STC's Vice Chair.

2019 TWELVE YEAR TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM: By Larry Shifflet

Deputy Secretary Larry Shifflet presented the 2019 Twelve Year Transportation Program (TYP) adjustments stating that between August 24, 2019, and November 19, 2019, there were 765 program adjustments including:

- 261 Project/Phase Additions
- 383 Project/Phase Changes
- 71 Project/Phase Deletions
- 50 Adjustments to Funding Line Items

Mr. Shifflet explained that the overall changes represent a \$75,919,694 increase for the reporting period.

He went on to highlight two projects in the Harrisburg MPO including an Act 13 Six Bridge Bundle Project and a Public Transit Project in Dauphin County.

Mr. Drnevich asked if the bridges included in the bundle project are state bridges.

Mr. Shifflet answered that the bridges are local and county bridges.

Mr. Drnevich asked if the Act 13 funds can be used on state bridges.

Mr. Shifflet answered that the Act 13 funds are used on local bridges.

ON A MOTION by Mr. Jimmy Kingsborough and seconded by Mr. Frank Paczewski, the 2019 Twelve Year Program Adjustments were unanimously approved.

2019 RAIL FREIGHT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: By Ms. Jennie Granger

Deputy Secretary Jennie Granger presented the list of Rail Freight projects recommended for funding for the fiscal year 2019. Ms. Granger explained that 44 applications were received and 26 have been selected for approval for a total of \$40,025,783. She noted that a 30% of project cost match is required.

Mr. Khoury asked about the evaluation process.

Ms. Granger explained that the main criteria include the preservation of essential rail lines and the stimulation of economic development through new rail line projects. She noted that projects that can demonstrate that they are moving more freight through rail have an advantage.

Ms. Granger added that a long-term monitoring after the grant is received exists to make sure that goals are achieved.

Mr. Kingsborough asked if the projects are specific to freight. Ms. Granger confirmed that this was the case.

ON A MOTION by Mr. Jimmy Kingsborough and seconded by Mr. Ronald Drnevich, the 2019 Rail Freight Assistance Projects were unanimously approved.

WORKING SESSION

TWELVE YEAR PROGRAM REPORTING: By Mark Tobin and Jessica Clark

Ms. Lugene Keys, McCormick Taylor moderated a working session regarding Twelve Year Program Reporting. She explained that Ms. Jessica Clark and Mr. Mark Tobin, were going to discuss potential updates to the STC Briefing Book and Reports.

Ms. Keys explained that the efforts to modernize the STC began in 2013 with the improvement of the public outreach components, the digitizing of the TYP publication, and the introduction of the Transportation Performance Report. She noted that the evolution of the process of modernization has led to the discussion on how to enhance the STC Briefing Book and Reports.

Ms. Clark explained the major components of the STC Briefing Book including the minutes from the last meeting, reports from each PennDOT Deputate, and the TYP reports which include an overall summary, summary charts by program area, major project changes, and major project changes with details.

Commissioners discussed the proposed updates to each of the components including:

Minutes

Could the minutes be a separate handout or digital document?

Mr. Drnevich: Some Commissioners may not be comfortable, but I would be comfortable bringing an iPad to the meetings.

Mr. Drnevich: Would we get them sooner if they were electronic?

What would be considered a quick turnaround?

Mr. Drnevich: Two weeks from the meeting.

Overall Quarterly Report

One word to describe STC Quarterly Report:

Mr. Khoury: A lot of information.

Mr. Kingsborough: Dense.

What information is most useful?

Mr. Ritchie: Deputate reports.

Mr. Khoury: It is all meaningful information, but I understand that it may be too much for someone without the same background.

Ms. Willan: It should include “why” adjustments are taking place.

Mr. McAuley: The Highway admin charts show past, present and future. It could be better viewed if data are online.

What information is least useful?

Ms. Willan: Program adjustments are difficult to access:

- Too much information without explaining why adjustments are taking place.
- Could be presented digitally to better drill down on details.

Deputy Reports

What information do you need to help satisfy the goals and objectives of your mission?

Mr. Kingsborough: Where is the most money spent?

Mr. Amond: What are the impacts on the economy and residents?

What level of detail is desired?

Mr. Drnevich: The current level is good and helpful.

Mr. Khoury: I would rather skim too much information and get enough than not be given enough information.

Mr. Ritchie: Major initiatives should be reported and briefs on major projects should also be included.

Ms. Willan: Deputy Reports should include brief executive summaries at the beginning.

TYP Reports

Are you satisfied with the current report format?

Mr. Khoury: They should have - high-level information with the ability to drill down.

Ms. Willan: Add a short section of major projects:

- Define major projects by the cost and/or popularity and controversy.
- Connect major projects with public comments – possibly from the STC Statewide Survey Results Map.

Mr. Ritchie: Add content from the Secretary or Governor.

Mr. Tobin explained the proposed Program Adjustment Categories.

Ms. Granger: Will Transit include rubber tire and rail? Should be separated for tracking purposes.

- Should add ports to the multimodal category.

Ms. Willan: Where is local restoration located?

Mr. Tobin: Under highway or bridge depending on the project.

Ms. Willan: This may be confusing for the public – can we change Highway to Highway and Roadway?

Mr. McAuley: Keep in mind that the changes will affect how trends are tracked and compared.

Mr. Tobin explained that the long-term goal for streamlining the TYP program adjustments is to use an online dashboard to display the information, instead of the number charts in the books. He added that an interactive dashboard would allow you to visualize the key changes and concepts at-a-glance.

Mr. Tobin concluded the presentation with the next steps which include:

- Compile comments received today
- Solicit feedback from Deputy Secretaries
- Update draft plan to streamline quarterly report
- Report back at the February 2020 STC Meeting

PA ON TRACK BRIEFING: By Brian Hare and Brian Funkhouser

Mr. Brian Hare, Director for the Center for Program Development and Management, gave an update on the progress of the PennDOT's Long Range Transportation Plan.

Mr. Hare explained that - this update includes both the Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the Comprehensive Freight Movement Plan. He stated that though they are two separate plans, they are both performance-based plans.

Mr. Hare noted that the LRTP and Freight Planning are required under Federal Law to be developed and approved by State DOTs for 25-year time horizons and include goals and strategies. Mr. Hare said that the update frequency has not been specified for states. He added that PennDOT follows a five-year update cycle.

Mr. Hare listed the values of the LRTP including:

- Strategic Framework to inform Program Development
- Synergy with Regional Plans
- Positioning for Change
- Multimodal / Intermodal
- Ownership of varied Stakeholders (Development and Implementation)
- Participation of freight industry.

Mr. Hare also discussed the framework and the expected major milestones.

STC commissioners discussed potential involvement options for the Commission.

Mr. Kingsborough asked if there were more initiatives such as the I-81 Improvement Workshop.

Mr. Hare noted that with the renewed interest in investing in the Interstate, there is a focus on those types of workshops.

Mr. Ritchie commented that trending issues about Autonomous Vehicles and the need for a conversation on the future of mobility should be part of the LRTP.

Mr. Cohen commented that the next steps in the conversation about Connected Autonomous Vehicles are about turning all the available information into policy.

Mr. Hare said that the Statewide Freight Summit will highlight the forward-thinking initiatives and bring together the different stakeholders.

Mr. Khoury commented the STC is pleased to provide input throughout the process of development and implementation of the LRTP. He noted that it would be great for the Commission to be presented with a vision of the future for transportation, so it can provide input.

Ms. Willan asked where environmental issues fit in the LRTP.

Mr. Hare answered that the environmental issues and impacts will be looked at when the objectives and the performance measures are being developed.

Ms. Willan asked if DEP is involved in the development of the LRTP.

Mr. Hare answered that they will be part of the Planning Catalyst Team.

PA Department of Transportation Update:

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

TAC Chair, Ms. Jody Holton, gave a brief report highlighting the Committee's effort to implement the recommendations from the Enhanced Communication and Collaboration (ECC) Initiative. Ms. Holton explained that TAC voted to approve the drafts of the Roles and Responsibilities and the Charter. As for the Bylaws, changes will be made to the draft and voted on at the Next TAC meeting in February 2020. Following approval of these documents, the TAC will work towards implementation.

Ms. Holton also discussed the Committee's Studies. She explained that the *Statewide Small Local Bridge Investment Plan* will examine and understand the ability of local municipalities to adequately maintain local bridges and advance bridge projects to bid and construction. She added that Mr. Mark Murawski has volunteered to chair the taskforce for this study.

For the *Utilities in the State Right-of-Way study*, Ms. Holton explained that it will identify the existing systems and processes related to utilities in the state and other public rights-of-way and evaluate the Commonwealth's utility maintenance and replacement management system(s). Ms. Holton noted that Mr. John Pocius has volunteered to chair the taskforce for this study. Ms. Holton also discussed Representative Martina White's Taskforce Report on Transportation Funding. She said that the Report highlights the need for additional funding sources and a proposed legislation to implement the Taskforce recommendations.

Administration and Budget

Mr. Robert Chiappelli, the Acting Deputy Secretary for Administration, gave a brief report in which he discussed the Green County Maintenance Office reconstruction project. He explained that the project was delegated to PennDOT by DGS because of a declared emergency due to a fire in the building. He added that Michael Baker International has been selected as the Design Professional and construction is expected to be completed in July 2021.

Mr. Chiappelli also discussed contract negotiations between the Commonwealth and the AFSCME Council 13. He noted that an agreement has been reached to modify the pay and placement of current Transportation Equipment Operators. He added that the new agreement will also enhance the entry level salaries for new operators.

Mr. Chiappelli concluded his update noting that guidelines for the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Agency Budget Request were issued to Deputies and District Executives in early August.

Drivers and Vehicles Services

Deputy Secretary Kurt Myers gave a report for the Drivers and Vehicles Services Deputate. Mr. Myers discussed the Operation Safe Stop 2019, which was conducted on October 23, 2019. He explained that data collected from 84 participating school districts showed 288 violations, which is up from 147 violations reported the previous year. Mr. Myers said that in the same time, convictions for breaking the School Bus Stopping Law have decreased from 747 in 2017 to 667 in 2018. He added with the passage of Act 189 school bus drivers can now have access to a PennDOT – approved camera system installed on the outside of the bus to help the school bus drivers safely document valuable evidence that may be used later to convict drivers who have illegally passed a school bus.

Mr. Myers also gave an update about Real ID. He noted that out of the 11 million driver's license and ID holders, 528,000 have opted in to get a real ID. That's a 23% opt-in rate.

Mr. Myers noted the Department, as part of its planning efforts, anticipated that approximately 25% of all customers will opt-in and receive a REAL ID. He said there is still a robust advertisement campaign going on to promote the Real ID ahead of the October 1, 2020, DHS deadline for enforcement.

Highway and Bridge Program

Deputy Secretary George McAuley gave an update about the Highway and Bridge Deputate. Mr. McAuley explained that the number of bridges in poor condition has decreased; and there has been considerable progress on reducing the bridge closures due to storms.

Mr. McAuley noted that more cost-effective approaches are being used for secondary road maintenance.

Mr. McAuley also discussed winter maintenance expenditures noting that salt prices are up. He added that the Department has been more effective in managing commercial vehicle restrictions.

Mr. Ritchie asked about the total amount for 2020 lettings.

Mr. McAuley indicated there is \$2.2 billion associated with the 2020 lettings.

Multimodal Transportation

Deputy Secretary Jennie Granger gave an update about the Multimodal Deputate stating that the Aviation board pilot course was completed in September. Ms. Granger explained that the pilot course started in April 2019 with a steering Committee comprised of five airport managers and five airport board members.

Ms. Granger discussed the ribbon cutting of the Mount Joy Station. She thanked Commissioner Drnevich for attending the event. She noted that the turnout was great.

Mr. Kingsborough asked about the cost of a bike on the train.

Ms. Granger indicated \$20 is the cost to bring a bike on the train.

Office of Planning

Deputy Secretary Larry Shifflet gave a brief update highlighting the P3 program. He noted that there were only two bridges left to complete in 2020.

Mr. Shifflet also mentioned the TYP update, which he said is progressing well.

OTHER BUSINESS

The STC voted to approve the 2020 Quarterly meeting dates and locations:

- February 20, 2020 in Harrisburg, PA
- May 6, 2020 in Harrisburg, PA
- August 13, 2020 in Wilkes-Barre, PA
- December 10, 2020 in York, PA

ON A MOTION by Mr. Ronald Drnevich and seconded by Mr. Frank Paczewski, the 2020 STC quarterly meeting dates and locations were approved.

NEXT MEETING

The next STC quarterly meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, February 20, 2020**, in Harrisburg, PA.

ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION by Mr. Frank Paczewski and seconded by Mr. Ronald Drnevich, the STC quarterly meeting was adjourned at 12:29 PM.