

PENNSYLVANIA STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES  
LANGHORNE, PENNSYLVANIA  
AUGUST 11, 2016  
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**CALL TO ORDER:**

Secretary Leslie Richards convened a quarterly business meeting of the Pennsylvania State Transportation Commission (STC) at 10:16 a.m. on Thursday, August 11, 2016 in Langhorne, PA.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Commissioners Present:**

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

**MINUTES:**

Commissioner Martin asked that the minutes of the May 12, 2016 meeting be changed to reflect that the August meeting was being held in Langhorne, PA and not Southampton, PA.

**ON A MOTION** by Commissioner Cernic seconded by Commissioner Paczewski, and unanimously approved, the minutes of the May 12, 2016, STC quarterly business meeting were accepted with the change.

**SECRETARY'S REMARKS:**

A tour of the I-95/Pennsylvania Turnpike interchange construction was made available to STC members and guests. Secretary Leslie Richards thanked the PennDOT staff and the Turnpike, stating it was the last missing link on I-95 from Maine to Florida to be completed.

The Secretary also thanked the District 6-0 staff and SEPTA for coordinating numerous national and international events held in Philadelphia during the year.

## **TWELVE YEAR TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM:**

### **2015 Highway and Bridge Program Adjustments/Major Project Adjustments**

Deputy Secretary Jim Ritzman presented the 2015 Highway and Bridge Program adjustments, stating that between April 23, 2016 and July 15, 2016 there were 978 program adjustments:

- 130 Project/Phase Additions
- 665 Project/Phase Changes
- 24 Project/Phase Deletions
- 57 Adjustments to Funding Line Items

Mr. Ritzman noted a change of \$72 million in the statewide line items. The change occurred in the intermodal category for the Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) P3 project for public transit.

In addition, there was a change of \$23.9 million in the interstate category. Additional funding had become available from projects that are now closed and/or inactive.

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

### **2017-2028 Twelve Year Program**

Secretary Richards introduced the 2017-2028 Twelve Year Program (TYP) presentation. Secretary Richards stated that she challenged the Planning Deputate to create a Transportation Investment Plan as a metric driven way to guide decisions for highway and bridge investments based on specific asset conditions.

Deputy Secretary Ritzman delivered an overview of the 2017-2028 Twelve Year Program, noting that, the first four years of the TYP makes up the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The 2017 TYP contains projects worth over \$61.8 billion over the twelve-year period.

Mr. Ritzman discussed the Transportation Investment Plan, which influences the decisions the Planning Partners make in funding bridges and roadways. The Investment Plan helps determine whether a region has sufficient resources to expand the capacity of the transportation network instead of rehabilitating structurally deficient bridges and roadways. The process in building the Transportation Investment Plan was collaborative with the MPOs and RPOs. Mr. Ritzman highlighted the Endeca software program, a tool that provides an in depth understanding of the Department's investments and helps them to manage the plan effectively.

Mr. Ritzman stated that Act 89 of 2013 enhanced funding levels, however revenue projections for the Motor License Fund (MLF) and Pennsylvania State Police funding caused a slight downward trend in TYP funding between the 2015 TYP and the 2017 TYP. In July, the Legislature enacted a cap of on the amount of support that comes out of the MLF and reduces that amount by 4% each year until reaching \$500 million 2027. This is not currently reflected in the 2017 Program but will bolster the second and third four-year periods of the 2017 TYP.

Mr. Ritzman highlighted customer connections such as the PennDOT projects website.

Deputy Secretary Scott Christie highlighted the highway and bridge program by calling attention to \$2.52 billion in lettings for 2015 and \$1.23 billion in lettings for 2016 (through July of 2016). The projected letting total for all of 2016 is \$2.4 billion. Between January 1, 2015 and July 15, 2016, 1,137 projects at a cost of \$3.75 billion have been completed.

Mr. Christie stated that fatalities on state roads have decreased overall, but in some categories, fatalities are rising (such as distracted driving). In addition, the Department has continually reduced the number of structurally deficient bridges from over 6,000 in 2008 to under 4,000 today. The bridge program's goal for 2016 is to rebuild 300 SD bridges and 204 SD bridges have been bid for construction as of June 30, 2016. The CY 2016 bridge goal is \$725 million, and the P3 Bridge program will replace 558 additional bridges in bundles to maximize savings and efficiency.

Mr. Christie discussed pavement conditions, stating that poor IRI conditions have increased somewhat, particularly on secondary roads, attributed to Marcellus Shale activities and the increased focus on bridges. The Department is improving those roads. There also is a pavement reconstruction backlog.

Mr. Ritchie asked how the Department would explain to the public why bridge investment ranked higher than smoother pavement despite it being ranked as a top priority in the public outreach surveys. Mr. Christie stated that the Department is investing in pavement maintenance, and that the secondary road network has deteriorated due to the Marcellus Shale activities.

Mr. Ritzman introduced the Multimodal section of the Twelve Year Program, discussing PennDOT Connects, transit consolidations across the commonwealth, and the P3 project involving Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for transit buses.

Deputy Secretary Kurt Myers delivered a brief report on Driver and Vehicle Services, highlighting the expansion of online services, a streamlined paperless process for car registrations, advancements in driver and vehicle safety, and using technology to enhance the driver license center experience between customers and employees, such as the mobile app used by driver's license examiners.

Commissioner Drnevich asked about the elimination of registration stickers on license plates. Mr. Myers stated that registration stickers will be eliminated as of December 31, 2016, and the Department is prepared.

Commissioner Knoll suggested a customer survey to coincide with the Twelve Year Program development process to highlight the deputation's successes with its online services. Mr. Myers stated that this survey is possible to do.

Deputy Secretary Itzko reported on the Administration Deputation, discussing Facilities management, the AFSCME contract update, the Bureau of Equal Opportunity Reorganization, information systems and technology, and IdeaLink 20/20. Ms. Itzko discussed facilities projects

in detail, explaining that Commonwealth programs have caused project delivery for PennDOT facilities to decrease. However, as Ms. Itzko explained, facilities projects were delegated back to PennDOT from DGS.

Secretary Richards discussed the Pennsylvania State Police funding, and Representative Taylor stated that a legislative fix to the state police funding and the Motor License Fund was needed sooner or later. The Secretary also discussed the allocation of maintenance funds, stating that it has been flat for ten years.

**ON A MOTION** by Commissioner Cavalieri and seconded by Commissioner Cernic, the 2017 Twelve Year Program was adopted by the STC.

### **WORKING SESSION**

#### **PennDOT District 6-0 Overview**

Mr. George Dunheimer, Assistant District Executive, of District 6-0 delivered an overview of projects and district activities underway in PennDOT District 6. District 6 contains 3,562 miles of state highway, 2,762 state bridges and 6,400 traffic signals. Mr. Dunheimer discussed projects in each of District 6's five counties such as the US 13 Improvement project in Bucks County, the US 202 Section 300 widening and reconstruction in Chester County, the Route 252 Widening project in Delaware County, the Sullivan's Bridge bicycle and pedestrian trail project in Montgomery County, and the Passyunk Avenue Drawbridge rehabilitation in Philadelphia.

#### **Connected/Autonomous Vehicle Task Force**

PennDOT Policy Director Roger Cohen and Deputy Secretary Kurt Myers gave a brief presentation on the Connected and Autonomous Vehicle Task Force. The Task Force has been operating for six months and it is laying the foundation for autonomous vehicles and its testing within the Commonwealth. Mr. Cohen stated that the development of autonomous vehicles is similar to the technological rise of the internet and mobile telephones.

Autonomous vehicles already exist on transportation networks. Mr. Cohen stated that it is possible that the first vehicles will be for public transit and freight movement. Pennsylvania is a leader in development as the University of Pennsylvania and Carnegie Mellon University have been researching in this field for about two decades.

Legislation is necessary in Pennsylvania to make vehicles fully autonomous. Currently the vehicles must have a steering wheel and a driver behind it. A number of bills in the state House and Senate would authorize testing of fully autonomous vehicles in Pennsylvania.

The Task Force meets regularly and is working through policies that need to be in place to begin and facilitate testing of autonomous vehicles in Pennsylvania. The Task Force hopes to have recommendations available for Secretary Richards to review by the end of December 2016.

Commissioner Kingsborough asked about the investigation of a crash involving an automated Tesla vehicle. Mr. Cohen stated that the wreck was under investigation but also stated that the Tesla-S is not fully autonomous now and is considered advanced driver assist technology.

**REPORTS:**

**Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)**

The TAC report stands as written. Mr. Ritzman highlighted the three studies the TAC has underway: PSP funding, the 2017 Transportation Performance Report, and the Automated Red Light Enforcement review.

**Administrative/Budget**

Deputy Secretary Suzanne Itzko's reports stands as written.

**Driver and Vehicle Services**

Deputy Secretary Myers delivered a brief report for Driver and Vehicle Services, highlighting personal letters mailed to young drivers who have had a traffic infraction on safety. The Department hopes the program will reduce unsafe drivers amongst younger drivers.

**Highway and Bridge Program**

Deputy Secretary Christie briefly noted that the price per ton for road salt has been reduced by \$12/ton.

Mr. Ritchie commented on issues raised at the Motor Carrier Safety Advisory committee meeting such as truck parking availability and natural gas vehicles that are heavier than what is legal for use on Pennsylvania roads.

**Multimodal Transportation**

Deputy Secretary Toby Fauver's report stands as written.

**Planning**

Deputy Secretary Ritzman mentioned that STIC has been recognized nationally for its work by US DOT and FHWA.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Commissioner Drnevich commented on adaptive signals and if the Department could issue a press release to explain what they are. The Secretary stated that a press release is an excellent idea.

**Open Public Comment**

No comments were offered during the open public comment period.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next STC quarterly business meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 15, 2016 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**ON A MOTION** by Commissioner Pease and seconded by Commissioner Cernic, the STC quarterly business meeting was adjourned at 12:23 p.m.