

PENNSYLVANIA STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
BUSINESS MEETING  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
AUGUST 16, 2018



*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:**

Chair Leslie Richards convened a quarterly business meeting of the State Transportation Commission (STC) at 10:00 am on August 16, 2018, in Philadelphia, PA.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Commissioners Present in Person:**

1. Honorable Leslie S. Richards, Chairperson
3. Honorable Robert B. Pease, P.E., Vice Chair
4. Honorable Frank E. Paczewski
5. Honorable Ronald J. Drnevich
6. Honorable James D. Kingsborough
7. Honorable George M. Khoury
8. Honorable John C. Rafferty Jr.  
Mr. Nolan Ritchie, Alternate Present
9. Honorable Sharon L. Knoll
10. Honorable John Taylor  
Mr. Eric Bugaile, Alternate Present
11. Honorable William Keller  
Ms. Meredith Biggica, Alternate Present

**Commissioners Present by Phone:**

2. Honorable John Sabatina  
Mr. Jason Gerard, Alternate Present

**Commissioners Not Present:**

1. Honorable Christina G. Cavalieri

**MINUTES:**

**ON A MOTION** by George Khoury and seconded by Sharon Knoll, and unanimously approved, the May 17, 2018, STC business meeting minutes were accepted.

### **SECRETARY'S REMARKS:**

Secretary Richards gave brief remarks in which she welcomed Commissioners and Guests to Philadelphia, PA. Secretary Richards specially thanked Mr. Ken McClain and the staff at District 6-0 for helping to coordinate the STC Quarterly Meeting in Philadelphia.

Secretary Richards announced that Ms. Ellen Sweeney has moved on to another position. She added that she wishes her well in her future endeavors.

Secretary Richards also welcomed Ms. Jennie Granger, the new Deputy Secretary for Multimodal Transportation.

### **2017 TWELVE YEAR TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM ADJUSTMENTS**

Deputy Secretary Jim Ritzman presented the 2017 Twelve Year Program (TYP) adjustments stating that between April 28, 2018 and July 27, 2018, there were 879 program adjustments including:

- 179 Project/Phase Additions
- 586 Project/Changes
- 50 Project/Phase Deletions
- 64 Adjustments to Funding Line Items

Mr. Ritzman explained that the overall changes represent a \$85,322,816 increase for the reporting period. He added that part of the increase occurred in the Interstate Program.

Mr. Ritzman noted the Governor's Resurface PA Initiative played a significant role in the increase. Mr. Ritzman highlighted two construction projects in Lackawanna and Monroe Counties including I-380 North and South Bound Mill/Fill and I-380 from I-80 to SR 940 as examples of this initiative.

**ON A MOTION** by Robert Pease and seconded by George Khoury, the 2017 Twelve Year Program Adjustments were unanimously approved.

### **2019-2030 TWELVE YEAR PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT: By Jim Ritzman**

Secretary Richards introduced the 2019 TYP Development presentation. She noted that this year's update has a different feel and format. Secretary Richards provided a brief description of the document's cover page photograph, which features the Hulton Bridge in Oakmont Borough, Allegheny County. Secretary Richards said that the bridge was opened on October 20, 2015, is 1,633-foot-long, and it has significantly improved traveler mobility and safety throughout the region. The new bridge has two lanes in each direction, a four-foot median and five-foot sidewalk connecting Oakmont with Route 28 in Harmar. She also mentioned that the photograph was submitted by John Myler, P.E., in the Engineering District 11-0 as part of the STC TYP Update Photo Contest.

Deputy Secretary for Planning, Jim Ritzman, presented the 2019-2030 TYP Update. He explained the TYP Update process and highlighted some initiatives and programs that played a role in the update process. Mr. Ritzman first highlighted the PennDOT Connects Initiative. He

stated that since the roll-out of PennDOT Connects two years ago, collaboration has increased significantly between municipal stakeholders, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), Rural Planning Organizations (RPOs), and PennDOT. He mentioned that over this past winter, PennDOT hosted 33 workshops with more than 1,000 municipal representatives and planning partners in attendance. Mr. Ritzman also mentioned the Planning and Engineering 360. He indicated that this Program focuses on the engineering and planning disciplines and their respective roles and responsibilities in the transportation project development and delivery process. He added that it highlights bicycle, pedestrian, and stormwater issues as well as more effective communications between engineers and planners.

Mr. Ritzman also talked about the Roadway Maintenance and Preservation (RoadMaP) Program, saying that it was made possible by legislative action in 2016 that caps the expenditures from the Motor License Fund going toward the State Police budget beginning with the 2018-19 budget and concluding with the 2027-28 budget. He noted that as a result, an additional \$2.1 Billion is estimated to be invested in maintenance, highway, and bridge capital projects over the next 10 years.

Mr. Ritzman presented the 2019 TYP Update. He stated that this year, the TYP is available as an enhanced web document. He noted that the web document gives a very interactive view of the TYP, the outreach process, and the projects listing and highlights the collaborative effort between PennDOT and the Planning Partners.

The new TYP also features a searchable project listing and an interactive Infographic that explains the TYP process from start to finish. Mr. Ritzman indicated that the 2019 TYP contains over \$63 Billion worth of projects involving all modes of transportation and intermodal connections. Mr. Ritzman highlighted some projects in Montgomery County using the searchable project list tool in the StoryMap. He emphasized the convenience of the user-friendly searchable project list. Mr. Ritzman noted that, if approved by the STC, the STIP will be submitted to the FHWA, FTA, and the EPA for review and approval.

Mr. Ritzman also discussed the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) noting that it continues to 'spend more' than it takes in. He said that Congress has created a temporary fix for the HTF through budgetary maneuvers and transfers from the General Fund when the FAST Act was approved in late 2015. Without a permanent fix, the HTF is expected to approach insolvency during the summer of 2020 necessitating further transfers or a reduction in federal spending authority by fiscal year 2021.

**ON A MOTION** by Mr. Khoury and seconded by Mr. Pease, and unanimously approved, the 2019 TYP Update was accepted.

Mr. Ritchie commented that the 2019-2030 program is two billion more than the current 2017 program. Mr. Ritzman said that the increased delete is mostly due to the RoadMap Initiative.

Mr. Khoury commented about the need to highlight the changes between the past update cycle the current one. He indicated that doing so will make it easier to see how the program evolves over time.

Mr. Ritzman responded that the next update will include a clear analysis of the changes and offer STC commissioners' to be part of a conference call to provide input on how to improve the next update cycle.

Secretary Richards noted that it's more of a communication issue that will be addressed next time. She added that the StoryMap format makes the document easy to share with other officials, Planning Partners, and the public.

## **WORKING SESSION**

### **PENNDOT ENGINEERING DISTRICT 6-0: By Ken McClain**

Mr. McClain gave a presentation on the state of the PennDOT District 6-0. He started by saying that PennDOT owns and maintains the nation's 5<sup>th</sup> largest state highway system with nearly 40,000 miles and the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest state-maintained bridge system with 25,000 structures.

Mr. McClain explained that PennDOT's regional Engineering District 6-0 office manages state highways in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties. Mr. McClain gave a brief characterization of District 6-0 stating that the district has 33% of the statewide population, 33% of the legislature, 24% of the registered vehicles, and 24% of the daily vehicle miles traveled. He added that District 6-0 has 3,556 miles and 8,845 lane miles of state-owned Highways, 2,762 (11%) State-owned Bridges, and 5,869 (43%) of the Commonwealth's traffic signals.

Mr. McClain broke down the District's Project delivery, which totaled \$1.45 Billion in the 2017-2018 fiscal year:

- \$655 Million Bridge Preservation and Replacement
- \$358 Million Pavement Reconstruction and Widening
- \$167 Million Resurfacing
- \$111 Million Highway and Pavement Preservation
- \$99 Million ITS, Safety and Congestion Reduction
- \$68 Million Enhancements

Mr. McClain also highlighted some recently completed projects including **Sullivan's Trail Bridge, I-95 GR3, U.S. 13 Improvement, and the Speakman Covered Bridge.**

Mr. McClain mentioned the District's Active Traffic Management Strategies which include: ***Variable Speed Limits and Queue Detection, Dynamic Lane Assignments and Junction Control, Ramp Metering, and Multi-modal Improvements.*** He listed some of the benefits of active traffic management including:

- Smaller operational footprint requiring less Right of Way
- Less environmental impacts
- Faster project delivery
- More economical
- Scope is scaled to fit the traffic demand.

Talking about the new **Regional Traffic Management Center (RTMC)**, Mr. McClain said that the current Center is currently operating 40% over capacity. The new RTMC:

- Will quadruple the size of our existing RTMC
- Is expected to be a 2-story, 32,000 SF building in King of Prussia
- Is expected to house 70+ employees
- Will incorporate signal operations staff for the first time
- Is anticipated to be open in December 2021.

Mr. Ritchie asked if there were any Autonomous Vehicles (AVs) Projects in the area. Mr. McClain answered that for now the District is just working on determining what the overall impacts are going to be for the area. But he noted that the uncertainty about the proprietary technology, the timing of the shift, the legislation changes, and the safety issues make it hard to prepare.

Secretary Richards commented that things are moving well and the PennDOT is working very hard to remain in the forefront for Automated Vehicles.

Mr. Myers commented that the expectation is that the environment for the development of AVs will expand. He added safety remains a big concern and a strategic program was published in the Governor's Highway Safety Report. He also noted that Law Enforcement Officers are being educated on how to deal with the changes to come.

### **PA Department of Transportation Update:**

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

TAC Chair, Jody Holton, gave a brief report highlighting the three TAC studies:

- Intercity Passenger Rail Study
- Risks to Transportation Funding Analysis Study
- 2019 Transportation Performance Report

She gave an overview and the expected completion date. She noted On May 21, 2018, the **Intercity Passenger Rail Study** Taskforce held its first meeting from 1:00 to 3:00 PM in the Commonwealth Keystone Building in Harrisburg, PA. Also, on June 28, 2018, the **Risks the Transportation Funding Analysis Study** Taskforce also delete held its first meeting from 1:00 to 3:00 PM in the Commonwealth Keystone Building in Harrisburg, PA. Ms. Holton said that the Passenger Rail study is expected to be completed by the end of this year while the Funding study is due early next year. Ms. Holton also discussed the **2019 Transportation Performance Report (TPR)** stating that an internal kickoff meeting between PennDOT staff and the consulting team was held for the TPR on July 25, 2018, from 1:00 PM delete to 3:00 PM in the Commonwealth Keystone Building in Harrisburg, PA. She explained that the TPR will feature a *StoryMap* format.

## **Administration and Budget**

Sitting in for Deputy Secretary Itzko, Mr. Chuck Zimmerman gave a report in which he talked about diversity training for executives, managers, and supervisors. He also mentioned the disparity study and diversity forums. Mr. Zimmerman also discussed the Secretary's Innovation challenge for high school students which challenges them to think of technological innovations to curb distracted driving. He also discussed the ongoing work zone safety initiatives.

Secretary Richards added that 70 schools have participated in the Innovation challenge. Seven top tier winners have presented their work to the selection committee. She noted the challenge gives teenagers a chance to reflect on an issue that mostly impacts teenagers.

Mr. Zimmerman concluded his report by discussing delegated projects on the facilities side of the administrative deputate.

## **Driver and Vehicle Services**

Deputy Secretary Kurt Myers gave an update stating that Real ID is moving along, and delivery is scheduled to begin in March 2019. He explained that five more delivery centers and 250 more employees are being added to speed up the process. He added that the pre-verification process went well, and an effective communication campaign is being conducted to explain the process. Mr. Myers concluded that overall, every phase of the process is on schedule. Mr. Myers also discussed the Deployment of New Knowledge Testing Equipment. He noted PennDOT completed the deployment of new knowledge testing equipment to all 71 Driver's License Centers in March. Mr. Myers also talked about the Vehicle Emissions Technician Certification and Recertification Enhancements Initiative, stating that Effective August 1, 2018, emission inspectors will be able to access the online training and exam for renewing their emissions certification.

## **Office of Planning**

Mr. Ritzman gave a report on the Planning Deputate. He discussed the \$5 fee for local use stating that 21 counties have adopted the resolution and a total of \$50 Million dollars has been collected so far. Mr. Ritzman added that 9 counties that have adopted the \$5 fee for local use are taking advantage of additional state funds for local bridges. Mr. Ritzman also discussed the Public-Private Transportation Partnerships (P3) Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fueling stations program, which will supply natural gas to more than 1,600 public-transit buses at the 29 sites. Mr. Ritzman said that twelve stations have been completed, three more will be completed later this year, and 12 more are planned.

## **Highway and Bridge Program**

Mr. Brian Thompson gave the report for the Highway and Bridge Program. He explained that fatalities on the Commonwealth's roadways have been trending down, but more work is needed to get the number down to zero. Mr. Thompson indicated that the number of bridges in poor condition has also decreased. He credited the Accelerated Bridge Program for reducing the number of bridges in poor condition ahead of schedule. He added that the preservation efforts

have helped to keep bridges in fair condition from falling into poor condition. All of these efforts have kept the governor's bridge goal on target.

Mr. Thompson also discussed the Rapid Bridge Replacement Program. He said that the program was expected to be complete by the end of the year, but some bridge construction will continue into 2019 and 2020. He noted that inclement weather and right-of-way issues have delayed progression in some places.

### **Multimodal Transportation**

Deputy Secretary for Multimodal, Jennie Granger, gave a brief report in which she indicated that her deputate has opened the application process for Rail Freight Grants. She mentioned that the grantees will be announced in Fall 2018. Ms. Granger indicated that a new station site is needed to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) platform requirements at the Middletown Station. She mentioned that the proposed site at Ann Street/Airport Drive (SR 441) at West Main Street (Route 230) was identified in 2010 and pre-construction work, including demolition, grading, drainage, and fencing began in July 2016.

Ms. Granger also announced that the Mount Joy Train Station project is almost completed. She said she would like to take STC commissioners on a tour to visit Multimodal projects.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next STC quarterly meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, December 20, 2018**, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**ON A MOTION** by James Kingsborough and seconded by Robert Pease, the STC quarterly meeting was adjourned at 11:48 AM.