

PENNSYLVANIA STATE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
BUSINESS MEETING
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
FEBRUARY 3RD, 2020



CALL TO ORDER:

The business meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was called to order at 10:09 a.m. on February 3, 2020, in Harrisburg, PA.

MINUTES:

ON A MOTION by Ms. Brenda Sandberg and seconded by Mr. John Pocius, P.E., PLS, and unanimously approved, the Minutes of December 5, 2019, TAC Business Meeting were accepted.

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

CHAIR'S REMARKS:

TAC Chair, Jody Holton, AICP, gave brief remarks welcoming TAC members to Harrisburg.

Ms. Holton announced the appointment of four new members to the TAC including:

- Mr. Elam Herr, who is a retired Assistant Executive Director of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors. He is unable to attend.
- Mr. Kevin Stewart, who is the President of the Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association.
- Mr. Ron Wagenmann, who had previously served on the TAC, is a retired township manager from Upper Merion Township.
- Representative Mike Carroll, who represents the 118th District in Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties.

Mr. Stewart and Mr. Wagenmann briefly introduced themselves.

Ms. Holton also gave updates about the Department's Staffing changes including:

- The appointment of Mr. George McAuley, P.E., as the new Executive Deputy Secretary.
- The appointment of Ms. Melissa Batula, P.E., as the new Deputy Secretary for Highway Administration.
- Robert Chiappelli's permanent appointment as the Deputy Secretary for Administration.
- Ms. Jessica Clark's promotion to Division Chief for the Financial and Contract Management Division in the Center for Program Development and Management.

Ms. Holton reminded TAC members that Ms. Karen Heath sent out updated Travel Requirements, which show changes in reimbursement amounts for vehicle mileage.

SECRETARY’S REMARKS

Acting Secretary Yassmin Gramian, P.E. provided brief remarks on funding issues and the ongoing initiatives to address those issues. Ms. Gramian said that transportation is very important to the development of all communities across the Commonwealth and the funding shortfall threatens that development. She explained that the past years have seen notable efforts both from the Department and the Legislature to address those threats. Ms. Gramian referenced the report released by the Task Force chaired by Representative Martina White, which laid out recommendations and proposed legislation to implement those recommendations.

Representative Tim Hennessey commented about the need to pass the needed legislation to implement the recommendations from the report.

ENHANCED COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION

Ms. Christi Sabb from McCormick Taylor provided an update on the drafts of the Roles and Responsibilities, the Charter, and the updated Bylaws as developed by the Enhanced Communication and Coordination Subcommittee.

Ms. Sabb explained that the operating procedures were developed to help improve the coordination and communication within the TAC and the TAC has already voted to approve both the Charter and the Management Team Roles and Responsibilities during the TAC meeting in December 2019.

Ms. Sabb noted that the draft Bylaws were reviewed during the December meeting. TAC members made comments concerning membership terms and temporary Chair designation. All comments and suggestions have also been reviewed by the Department’s Chief Counsel Office.

The TAC discussed the updated bylaws and no further comments or concerns were recorded.

ON A MOTION by Ms. Brenda Sandberg and seconded by Mr. Mark Murawski, and unanimously approved, the TAC Bylaws were accepted.

Ms. Sabb said that the subcommittee will continue to work on formalizing the TAC Study Identification Process as it exists now and look for opportunities for improvement or tools that may help the TAC.

TAC STUDY UPDATES

The TAC has started work on two new study topics. Mr. Brian Funkhouser and Mr. Troy Truax gave an update about the TAC studies.

Statewide Small Local Bridge Investment Plan

Mr. Truax explained that the study will provide a statewide evaluation of locally-owned bridges under 20 feet in length and identify ways and means to advance their inventory, condition assessment, and maintenance.

Mr. Truax reiterated that Mr. Mark Murawski will chair the Task Force for this study. He added that the official kickoff meeting with the Task Force is scheduled for February 3, 2020, following the TAC business meeting.

Mr. Murawski commented that this study presents a unique opportunity to determine what the real problem is and formulate effective solutions to address it.

Utilities in State Right-of-Way

Mr. Truax explained that the study will provide a statewide evaluation of utility coordination issues and impacts on project construction costs and schedules.

Mr. Truax noted that Mr. John Pocius is chairing the Task Force for this study and the first taskforce meeting was held after the December 5th TAC business meeting.

New TAC Study Scope of Work: Impacts of Truck Weight Statutory Exemptions on the Rail Freight and Highway Networks in Pennsylvania

Mr. Keith Chase from Gannett Fleming provided an overview of the Scope of Work for the TAC whitepaper on the impacts of the various truck weight exemptions enacted by the General Assembly, primarily from the perspective of their impact on the transportation system.

Mr. Keith discussed the different tasks of the Scope of Work. Key points include:

The *Research and Methodology Refinement* task will:

- Define and prioritize key analytical questions
- Identify the direct impacts that truck weight exemptions are having on the state's railroads
- Develop a working outline for the final study report

The *Data Collection, Initial Stakeholder Engagement and Analysis* task will collect and analyze data through established sources, interviews, and other means and existing forums such as the April 2020 PA State Rail Plan Stakeholder Meeting.

Mr. Chase noted that preliminary findings will be reviewed by the Department, TAC, and stakeholders.

The *Report Development, Review, and Refinement* task will generate the first draft of the report to be reviewed by the Department and any designated members of TAC for comment, discussion, and input.

Mr. Chase said that the final draft will be presented to the TAC and the STC.

Mr. Stewart commented about stakeholders' engagement process.

Mr. Chase said that the study team will identify key stakeholders and reach out to them.

Deputy Secretary Jennie Granger, AICP, commented about the timeline of the study, which is expected to be completed in July 2020.

ON A MOTION by Ms. Brenda Sandberg and seconded by Mr. John Pocius, and unanimously approved, the *Impacts of Truck Weight Statutory Exemptions on the Rail Freight and Highway Networks in Pennsylvania* study Scope of Work was approved.

PA ON TRACK BRIEFING: By Jessica Clark and Brian Funkhouser

Mr. Brian Funkhouser from Michael Baker International and Ms. Jessica Clark from the Center for Program Development and Management, gave an update on the progress of the PennDOT's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the Comprehensive Freight Movement Plan (CFMP).

Ms. Clark gave an overview of the LRTP and the CFMP processes and the public outreach campaigns for both Plans.

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

Mr. Funkhouser 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.

PA Department of Transportation Update:

Executive Deputy Secretary

Executive Deputy Secretary, Mr. George McAuley, gave a brief report noting that budget briefings for the upcoming budget hearings are being prepared.

Administration and Budget

Mr. Robert Chiappelli, Deputy Secretary for Administration, gave a brief report in which he discussed the Greene County Maintenance Office reconstruction, which is expected to be completed in July 2021.

Mr. Chiappelli also discussed the opening of the new Bucks County Maintenance Office. He explained that the old site is being turned over to the Heritage Conservancy through DGS as part of an agreement sale for \$800,000.

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 and the final budget request package was submitted to the Governor's Budget Office on October 2, 2019.

Driver and Vehicle Services

Deputy Secretary for Driver and Vehicle Services, Mr. Kurt Myers gave an update about Real ID. He noted that PennDOT is now delivering up to 5000 Real IDs a day and more than 800,000 overall. Mr. Myers said that up to 1.8 million of Pennsylvanians have made the decision not to get a Real ID. He added that there is still a robust advertisement campaign ongoing to promote the Real ID ahead of the October 1, 2020, DHS deadline for enforcement.

Highway Administration

Deputy Secretary Ms. Melissa Batula, P.E. gave an update about the Highway and Bridge Program. Ms. Batula explained that the number of bridges in poor condition continues to decrease. Ms. Batula noted that winter maintenance expenditures have reached \$160 million so far and are in line with the 5-year average.

Ms. Batula indicated that the Rapid Bridge Replacement Program only has two bridges left to complete. She also mentioned the Automated Workzone Speed Enforcement Pilot Project. The enforcement is set to begin on March 9, 2020. The first offense will be a warning, the second offense will result in a fine.

Multimodal Transportation

Deputy Secretary Jennie Granger, AICP, gave an update about the Multimodal Deputate stating that Multimodal Transportation Fund applications for the State Fiscal Year were open from September 9, 2019 to November 8, 2019. She added that 218 new applications requesting \$250 million were received.

Ms. Granger also discussed the ribbon cutting for the Mount Joy Train Station, which was held on October 21, 2019, to acknowledge the improved functionality, ADA accessibility, and aesthetic at the station.

Ms. Granger concluded her update noting that the draft Statewide Active Transportation Plan was put out for review, and comments were solicited through December 6. She added that more information is available on PennDOT's website under Travel in PA.

Office of Planning

Deputy Secretary for Planning, Mr. Larry Shifflet, mentioned that the Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan and the Comprehensive Freight Plan updates are progressing well.

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING:

The next TAC business meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, April 9, 2020**, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

ADJOURNMENT:

ON A MOTION by Mr. Tom Geanopulos and seconded by Mr. Donald Detwiler, the TAC meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

Attendance* from the TAC Business Meeting
February 03, 2020

1. Ms. Jody Holton, AICP, Chair
2. Ms. Yassmin Gramian, P.E., TAC member
3. Mr. Michael Carroll, P.E., TAC member
4. Ms. Brenda Sandberg, TAC member
5. Mr. Ashley Porter, P.E., TAC member
6. Ms. Karina Ricks, TAC member
7. Mr. Donald Detwiler, TAC Member
8. Mr. John Pocius, P.E., PLS, TAC member
9. Mr. Mark Murawski, TAC member
10. Mr. Tom Geanopulos, TAC member
11. Mr. Alan Blahovec, CCPM, TAC member
12. Dr. Larry Nulton, TAC member
13. Mr. Rodney Bender, alternate for Ms. Gladys Brown Dutrieuille, TAC member
14. Ms. Kim Ward, TAC member
15. Mr. Nolan Ritchie, M.P.A., alternate for Ms. Kim Ward, TAC member
16. Ms. Meredith Biggica, alternate for Mr. Mike Carroll, TAC member
17. Mr. Tim Kearney, TAC member
18. Mr. Sam Arnold, alternate for Mr. Tim Kearney, TAC member
19. Mr. Tim Hennessey, TAC member
20. Mr. Josiah Shelly, alternate for Mr. Tim Hennessey, TAC member
21. Mr. John Kashatus, alternate for Mr. Pedro Rivera, TAC member
22. Mr. Paul Opiyo, alternate for Mr. Dennis Davin, TAC member
23. Ms. Tiffany Landis, P.E., alternate for Mr. Patrick McDonnell, TAC member
24. Ms. Katie McLaughlin, alternate for Mr. Russell Redding, TAC member
25. Mr. George McAuley, Jr., P.E., PennDOT
26. Ms. Melissa Batula, P.E., PennDOT
27. Ms. Sarah Clark, PennDOT
28. Ms. Natasha Fackler, PennDOT
29. Mr. Larry Shifflet, PennDOT
30. Mr. Kurt Myers, PennDOT
31. Mr. Roger Cohen, PennDOT
32. Mr. Robert Chiappelli, PennDOT
33. Mr. Roy Gothie, PennDOT
34. Mr. Shane Rice, PennDOT
35. Ms. Amanda Shaffer, McCormick Taylor
36. Ms. Christi Sabb, McCormick Taylor
37. Ms. Lugene Keys, McCormick Taylor
38. Ms. Leanne Doran, Michael Baker Int'l

39. Mr. Brian Funkhouser, Michael Baker Int'l
40. Mr. Troy Truex, AICP, Michael Baker Int'l
41. Mr. Tim Smith, Gannett Fleming
42. Mr. Tyler Burke, Milliron Goodman
43. Mr. Kevin Sunday, PA Chamber of Business and Industry
44. Ms. Nicki Jacobs, GPI
45. Mr. Neil Ward, Commuter Rail Assoc. of Lancaster
46. Mr. Brian Hare, P.E., PennDOT
47. Mr. Mark Tobin, PennDOT
48. Ms. Jessica Clark, PennDOT
49. Mr. Abdoul Ahmed, PennDOT
50. Mr. Terry Pinder, PennDOT
51. Mr. Brian Sharkey, PennDOT
52. Ms. Karen Heath, PennDOT

**Attendance includes members present via conference call.*