

PENNSYLVANIA STATE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
BUSINESS MEETING  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA  
FEBRUARY 2ND, 2026



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

**CALL TO ORDER:**

A virtual business meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was called to order on Microsoft Teams at 10:01 a.m. on February 2, 2026.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Members Present on the Phone:**

1. Ms. Jody Holton
2. Honorable Michael B. Carroll
3. Honorable Stephen DeFrank, Rodney Bender, alternate
4. Honorable Carrie Rowe, John Kashatus, alternate
5. Honorable Jessica Shirley, Nathan Crawford, alternate
6. Honorable Rick Siger, Melissa Wright, alternate
7. Honorable Wayne Langerholc, Nolan Ritchie, alternate
8. Honorable Kerry Benninghoff, Josiah Shelly, alternate
9. Honorable Ed Neilson, Kyle Wagonseller, alternate
10. Mr. Jeffrey Letwin
11. Mr. Richard Barcaskey
12. Mr. John Pocius
13. Mr. Michael A. Carroll
14. Mr. Alan Blahovec
15. Dr. Larry Nulton
16. Mr. Mark Murawski
17. Mr. Martin Malone
18. Ms. Cathy Farrell
19. Ms. Rebecca Oyler
20. Mr. David Heath
21. Mr. Ryan Mulvey
22. Mr. Robert Previdi

**Members Not Present**

1. Honorable Timothy Kearney, Sam Arnold, alternate

2. Honorable Akbar Hossain, Orlando Almonte, alternate
3. Mr. Jeff Mercadante
4. Mr. Ashley Porter
5. Honorable Russel Redding, Lisa Graybeal, alternate
6. Mr. Ron Wagenmann

**CHAIR’S REMARKS:**

Chair Holton discussed waiting until after the Governor’s budget proposal before discussing the proposed Consensus-building toward Transportation Funding Solutions in Pennsylvania - Study. The topic will be revisited after the Governor’s budget address on February 3, 2026, and discussed at the April TAC meeting.

A second study submission from Mr. David Heath is also available on the TAC Study Portal.

**MINUTES:**

**ON A MOTION** by Mr. Marty Malone, seconded by Mr. John Pocius and unanimously approved, the Minutes of the December 10, 2025, TAC Business Meeting were accepted without changes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

**SECRETARY’S REMARKS:**

Secretary Carroll discussed the Governor’s Budget Address and expected the themes for transportation to mirror past Budget addresses. The Secretary will appear before the Senate on March 2, 2026, and the House on March 9, 2026.

The Secretary discussed the response to the major winter storm that affected the Commonwealth on January 25, 2026. The Commonwealth successfully managed the storm with minimal disruption, with only a few travelers stranded on the interstates and a small number accidents.

Eli Lilly, a major pharmaceutical corporation, plans to build a facility along I-78 in the Lehigh Valley. This is a \$3.5 billion investment for Eli Lilly.

Planning for the summer events in Philadelphia (the United States Semiquicentennial in July and the FIFA World Cup), along with the April NFL Draft in Pittsburgh are underway.

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION UPDATE:**

**Executive**

Executive Deputy Secretary Larry Shifflet discussed the continuing resolutions at the Federal level, stating that five of the six federal appropriation bills had been passed by the US Senate,

and were with the House of Representatives. A mini-shutdown is possible for any agency not funded out of the Trust Fund Contract Authority.

### **Administration and Budget**

Deputy Secretary Corey Pellington delivered a brief report for the Administration deputeate. The Department is under 3% vacancy overall, with operators under 5% vacancy. The Department has hired 315 temporary operating positions for winter and 220 permanent operator positions.

The Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program is in the process of being reevaluated per the interim final rule published by the U.S. DOT on October 3, 2025, and all firms should have received direct communication from their original certifying organization, and each firm is required to submit a personal narrative, a personal net worth statement, and a copy of their tax return for the re-evaluation process. A new methodology is being developed with a consulting firm and Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

### **Driver and Vehicle Services**

Deputy Secretary Kara Templeton delivered a brief report for Driver and Vehicle Services. She updated the Commission on the Road User Charge collection. The Department has sent over 100,000 invoices and has received \$12 million in fees from the road user charge to date. The Road User Charge law allows for a payment plan option starting in July 2026.

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has issued its Confirm ID program for air travelers who do not have a Real ID or other federally accepted form of identification. It involves a \$45 fee and is valid for a travel period of 10 days. The Department has not seen to date a large influx of customers acquiring Real IDs because of this program. 35% of license and ID holders have opted in to the RealID program.

### **Multimodal**

Deputy Secretary Meredith Biggica delivered a brief report for the Multimodal deputeate. She discussed the January 21, 2026, approval of the Rail Freight Grants by the State Transportation Commission. The Multimodal Grant process is underway, announced in December 2025 for the Department and the Commonwealth Finance Agency at Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED).

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) grant obligation for the second daily trip for the Amtrak *Pennsylvanian* was approved, and the 11 projects are now underway. The State Safety Oversight office is in the process of hiring three additional staff members and will soon be fully staffed.

### **Highway Administration**

Deputy Secretary Christine Norris delivered a brief report for the Highway Administration deputeate. \$166 million, or 80%, has been spent so far of the 2025-2026 Winter Budget, including

590,000 tons of salt. Winter is budgeted on a 5-year average and 2025-2026 is slightly higher than the five-year average. She added that 470,000 tons of salt is available and on hand.

The Department let just under 500 projects in calendar year 2025 for a cost of \$3.32 billion, and in calendar year 2026, the goal is \$3 billion plus the grant for the I-83 South Bridge for a rough total of \$4 billion. Bids are coming in at estimates.

For safety, the Department is projecting that 2025 will be the lowest year for fatalities since 2019.

Deputy Secretary Norris shared data about the Workzone Speed Safety Camera program, stating that violations of the program are trending downward since the program began in 2021.

Mr. Mark Murawski asked where funding is derived for Winter when the budget is exceeded for a specific year. Deputy Secretary Norris stated that the funds then come from the maintenance budget, from projects such as preservation or pavement. Mr. Murawski asked if funds can be moved from county to county and Deputy Secretary Norris said this flexibility is not permitted and that they are bound to the Additional State Highway Maintenance Appropriation (ASHMA) Formula.

### **Planning**

Deputy Secretary Mulkerin delivered a brief report for the Planning Deputate, stating that conversations are underway for the reauthorization of the surface transportation act, as the IIIA expires on September 30, 2026.

For the 2027 Program, all fiscally constrained regional programs were submitted to Central Office, and the next stage would be air quality conformity and regional public comment periods in May and June. The 2027 Program will be adopted in August 2026 by the State Transportation Commission.

The TASA (Transportation Alternatives Set Aside) program application comments were submitted by the MPOs and the awards should be announced in the Spring. The Freight Movement Plan is in the process of being updated with a section dedicated to Truck Parking. The update will be ready in the summer of 2026.

Several federal discretionary grant agreements are underway, including Wildlife Crossing.

Ms. Cathy Farrell asked about the status of the Federal grant for obligation for the I-83 South Bridge. Deputy Secretary Mulkerin stated that the grant cannot be obligated yet, but the department expects the grant to be ready in the spring or early summer of 2026. Executive Secretary Shifflet stated that the Department is likely in good shape to have the grant in place before the South Bridge project is advertised for bid later in this calendar year.

Mr. Michael A. Carroll asked a question about discretionary grants involving the city of Philadelphia and the lack of information from FHWA and the US DOT. Ms. Mulkerin stated that

the Department was experiencing similar things involving FHWA and would follow-up with Mr. Carroll.

### **PA NEVI PLAN – UPDATE**

Mr. Colton Brown delivered a report on the Pennsylvania National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) plan. The NEVI program was authorized by the IIJA in 2021 and is \$171.5 million for the Commonwealth over the life of the IIJA, which expires in September.

NEVI funds must be used for publicly funded infrastructure. Stations must have at least four charging ports and use a Combined Charging Standard (CCS) adapter which makes them available to all EV models on the market.

The Commonwealth is a leader in NEVI-funded stations with 29 in operation. There are 84 projects total underway within 43 counties.

Cumulative PennDOT NEVI usage information from December 2023 to September of 2025 shows 51,306 EV Charging sessions, 2,055,497 kWh in electricity dispensed, and an estimated 1,313 metric tons in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduced.

Pennsylvania is the first state to receive AFC Full Build Out certification by following the new NEVI guidance released on August 11, 2025, thus the Department now has greater flexibility to invest its remaining NEVI funds in public EV charging infrastructure.

The Corridor Connections closed on January 30, 2026, and award announcements will be forthcoming in March or April of 2026.

The Community Rounds program will be a \$95 million investment, and all publicly available locations are eligible. NEVI can fund up to 80% of the cost to design and install an EV charging station, and the Department is working with the planning partners to develop priority locations. The state is divided into regions, and funding opportunities will be published on a rolling basis every 2 to 3 months. Awards will be announced beginning in October of 2026 and through the spring of 2027. A basic survey is available for any interested business party that wishes to host an EV charging station.

Secretary Carroll noted that Pennsylvania is a national leader in implementing its NEVI program.

Mr. Ritchie asked if NEVI stations are collecting the Alternative Fuels Tax on EVs. Mr. Brown stated that all stations are collecting the tax, and it is a contractual term for constructing a NEVI station.

### **TAC 2025 ANNUAL REPORT**

The TAC annual report was presented. Mr. John Pocius noted that Mr. Marty Malone's name was omitted from the document. TAC support staff stated this will be addressed and a corrected version would be uploaded.

**ON A MOTION** by Mr. Pocius, seconded by Mr. Malone, and unanimously approved, the TAC approved the Annual Report.

**Study Implementation Updates**

Mr. Murawski discussed the PA Air Act, which is a major state legislative initiative underway in the General Assembly. Mr. David Heath made remarks on the Act and the efforts of the Pennsylvania Aviation Council to work with the legislature.

**MEMBER UPDATES:**

None.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

The next TAC Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026, in Harrisburg, PA.

**Adjournment**

**ON A MOTION** by Mr. Blahovec, seconded by Mr. Heath, and unanimously approved, the TAC meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.