

PENNSYLVANIA STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY MINUTES
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
MAY 15, 2014

CALL TO ORDER:

State Transportation Commissioner Bob Pease convened a quarterly business meeting conference call of the Pennsylvania State Transportation Commission (STC) at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 15, 2014 in State College, PA.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present:

Honorable Barry J. Schoch, P.E., Chairman, via conference call
Honorable Robert B. Pease, P.E., Secretary
Honorable Frederic M. Wentz, via conference call
Honorable Edward J. Cernic, Sr.
Honorable Ronald J. Drnevich
Honorable Nicholas A. Micozzie, alternate present
Honorable George M. Khoury, III, P.E.
Honorable Sharon L. Knoll
Honorable Michael P. McGeehan, alternate present
Honorable Frank E. Paczewski
Honorable John N. Wozniak

Public Present:

Mr. Eric Ross

MINUTES:

ON A MOTION by Commissioner Drnevich, seconded by Commissioner Khoury, and unanimously approved, the minutes of the February 25, 2014, STC conference call were accepted as presented.

SECRETARY'S OPENING REMARKS:

Secretary Barry Schoch gave a report on the new multimodal fund and the letting year, expecting a letting year of \$2 billion-plus. Act 89 allows for \$500 million in bonding authority, which the Department is using to its advantage, especially after the rough winter the Commonwealth experienced during 2013-2014. \$150 million in additional paving work will aid in repairing winter damage.

The Secretary discussed the TAC modernization efforts that now include modernization of all of PennDOT's transportation committees. The modernization mirrors the modernization of the STC and its public involvement process. The modernization should help the committees define their

unique role and examine where there are overlaps. The challenge will be to make each unique and separate and/or combine them where appropriate.

TWELVE YEAR TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM:

2013 Highway and Bridge Program Adjustments/Major Project Adjustments Presented by Deputy Secretary for Planning James Ritzman

Deputy Secretary James Ritzman presented the 2013 Highway and Bridge program adjustments for consideration. Using the one-line listing report, he highlighted projects on US 322, which amounted to a \$139 million increase for the Centre MPO planning region.

Deputy Secretary Ritzman reviewed the above projects in more detail using the more detailed major project changes report. The Major Changes report details the Twelve Year Program periods in which money is allocated. The US 322 projects have allocations in the first and second four years of the 2013 Twelve Year Program.

Mr. Ritzman noted that \$685 million in changes occurred in Highway and Bridge, \$16 million in changes occurred in Intermodal and \$97 million in the Other category. The Other category covers special projects such as research, safety and mobility, and transportation enhancements. The bulk of the \$97 million occurred under Planning/Research, primarily the Interstate category. \$40 million is allocated toward I-95 projects and are a transit flex. Act 89 aided in increasing the Department's ability to program projects.

ON A MOTION by Commissioner Khoury, seconded by Commissioner Paczewski, and unanimously approved, the 2013 Highway and Bridge TYP Adjustments/Major Project Adjustments were accepted as presented.

PRESENTATIONS

PennDOT District 2-0 Potters Mills Gap Project

PennDOT District 2-0 staff presented a comprehensive report on the Potters Mills Gap project. The project will realign US 322 from the Centre County-Mifflin County line at the top of Seven Mountains to the intersection of US 322 and PA 144 and it will improve safety, enhance mobility and alleviate access concerns.

District Executive Kevin Kline discussed the current problems along the route's alignment. The current alignment has a higher than average crash and fatality rate, with conflicts with at-grade intersections on a limited access highway. The intersection at PA 144 is congested and there are significant delays for left turns onto US 322 eastbound. There is also no convenient alternate route during incidents that close the roadway, and there are consistent customer complaints. Improvements will address specific safety needs and will not create the need for additional improvements.

ADE Karen Michael discussed the environmental documentation for the Potters Mills Gap project. The project impacts eight waterways, three wetland areas, threatened and endangered species such as the Indiana Bat, agricultural areas, state forests lands, possible buried gas tanks and a potential cemetery site from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The process began in March 2013 with extensive coordination efforts with a large number of stakeholders, with twelve separate written reports.

Project Needs and Alternates occurred in the spring and summer of 2013. The environmental decision was scheduled for July of 2014. Final design would be completed in summer of 2014 and the first section of the Potters Mills Gap project would be bid in late 2014.

TAC Transportation Performance Report—Moving Forward

Commissioner Khoury and Mr. Robert Taylor of Gannett Fleming delivered the Transportation Performance Report. The first report was initiated in 2012 and adopted by the State Transportation Commission in February of 2013. The TPR became the framework for STC modernization of its public involvement initiative as well as a reference for public relations.

The TPR focused on five key performance areas: Safety, Mobility, Preservation and Renewal, Accountability, and Funding. The TPR's outreach activities included the Secretary, PennDOT Deputy Secretaries, PennDOT staff, and the various advisory committees.

The next TPR will use measures from MAP-21, PA OnTrack, and Congestion Management and Operations tools. It will also act as a filter for future TAC initiatives and as a tool for STC public outreach. The TPR will be available to PennDOT, the Governor, the legislature, and the public.

The next steps would be to formalize a performance reporting collaboration team, monitor performance measurement trends and MAP-21, monitor emerging issues and initiate the 2015 update of the TPR.

The second version of the TPR is anticipated for release in February of 2015. The second version of the TPR will consist of a hard-copy version and an electronic version. The electronic version may include embedded video.

ON A MOTION by Commissioner Khoury, seconded by Commissioner Cernic, and unanimously approved, the TAC TPR—Moving Forward Report was accepted by the STC.

REPORTS:

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

TAC Chairman Lou Schulz discussed the current active task force (the TPR) and the modernization effort similar to the STC's modernization effort. The TAC will explore their current validity as well as their interactions with the other transportation committees and the Department itself. A workshop will occur on July 10, 2014 in Harrisburg, PA.

Administrative/Budget

Executive Deputy Secretary Brad Mallory presented the Administrative and Budget report, giving updates on facilities construction and maintenance including rest areas and district offices, Department personnel pay and complement, disadvantaged business partnerships, and innovations within the information systems and technology office designed to boost productivity in the office and out in the field. The Department's Safety Culture plan is underway particularly for work zones.

Mr. Mallory noted that there are no particular budget issues for SFY 2014-2015 and noted that there was a 52% increase in customers served from February to March of 2014, attributing this to weather.

Driver and Vehicle Services

Deputy Secretary Kurt Myers delivered the Driver and Vehicle Services report, highlighting the new apportioned vehicle registration program, the motorcycle safety program and 2014 motorcycle safety campaign, and the continuing upgrades of Driver licensing facilities. Mr. Myers also discussed the CDL physicals process, and stated that many of the CDL licenses that were canceled belonged to individuals who were not active CDL drivers.

The Veteran's ID was implemented on March 3, 2014. 27,000 veterans have received the veteran's designation on their drivers' licenses. Mr. Myers stated that the process was easy for veterans and there were considerable checks to insure that there is no fraud. The Veteran's Trust Fund raised \$700,000 through May of 2014.

Commissioner Pease asked if the designation provides any benefit to the veteran. Mr. Myers stated that the designation provides a few benefits available within the private sector.

Highway and Bridge Program

Deputy Secretary Scott Christie was not in attendance and his report stands as written.

Multimodal Transportation

Deputy Secretary Toby Fauver was not in attendance and his report stood as written. Deputy Secretary Jim Ritzman highlighted the Multimodal Fund within the new Multimodal Transportation deputate. The Multimodal Fund application process is open through June 30, 2014.

Planning

Deputy Secretary Jim Ritzman delivered the Planning report. Mr. Ritzman noted that a number of counties are interested in adding a \$5 fee for vehicle registration, which includes boat trailers. The \$5 fee was enabled by Act 89, and is restricted to highways and bridges.

Mr. Ritzman noted that MAP-21 expires on September 30, 2014, and that the Federal highway trust fund may run out of money before the end of the Federal fiscal year. The new USDOT proposal for a four-year reauthorization bill is titled the GROW AMERICA ACT, which stands for Generating Renewal, Opportunity, and Work with Accelerated Mobility, Efficiency, and Rebuilding of Infrastructure and Communities throughout America act.

Mr. Ritzman also noted that the Department was working with FHWA to streamline and modernize the '4232' system with electronic signatures, which would improve efficiencies and productivity.

Commissioner Knoll asked if the Department anticipated passage of a federal reauthorization by the September 30, 2014 deadline. Mr. Ritzman stated that he did not anticipate passage of a new reauthorization and that continuing short-term resolutions were more likely.

Public-Private Transportation Partnership (P3) Board

Mr. Dale Witmer on behalf of Policy Director Bryan Kendro delivered the Public Private Transportation Partnership (P3) Board report.

Mr. Witmer highlighted the Rapid Bridge Replacement Project, which would replace 550 to 650 structurally deficient bridges as a P3 project. Four firms have been shortlisted and the P3 board is meeting with each firm.

The wireless telecom partnership would identify and market existing PennDOT assets where wireless antenna could be attached or constructed and market those opportunities to wireless service providers. This would generate revenue for the Department, and increase wireless coverage for areas that lack coverage.

The train station development project along the Amtrak Keystone line would undertake station related improvements and upgrades while offsetting maintenance costs. A Request for Information (RFI) was issued and there were ten responses and the P3 board is evaluating them prior to issuing a Request for Qualification (RFQ).

The Department has issued a RFI for Commercial Driver and Vehicle Services Center and Capital Area Transit Bus Facility. Seven responses have been received and the P3 board is evaluating them to issue a RFQ.

Commissioner Comment Period

Commissioner Khoury noted a downward trend in the Program Constructed On-Time and Within Bid Amount over the last three quarters (page 113 in the Quarterly Meeting Briefing Book). Deputy Secretary Ritzman stated that the Department would follow up and provide an answer to Commissioner Khoury prior to the next STC business meeting.

Commissioner Khoury also recognized Mr. Hugh Mose, director of CATA, who is retiring at the end of June.

Open Public Comment

Mr. Jim May of the Centre Regional Planning Agency offered a few comments on the Potters Mills Gap project.

NEXT MEETING:

The next STC quarterly business meeting is scheduled on Thursday, August 14, 2014, in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

ADJOURNMENT:

ON A MOTION by Commissioner Cernic and seconded by Commissioner Paczewski, the STC quarterly business meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.