

PENNSYLVANIA STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
BUSINESS MEETING
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
FEBRUARY 18, 2026



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

CALL TO ORDER:

STC Commissioner Karen Michael convened the quarterly business meeting of the State Transportation Commission (STC) at 10:02 a.m. on February 18, 2026, in Harrisburg, PA.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present:

1. Honorable Ed Neilson, Kyle Wagonseller, alternate
2. Honorable Kerry Benninghoff, Josiah Shelly, alternate
3. Honorable Sharon Knoll
4. Honorable Karen Michael
5. Honorable Marty Flynn, Justin Gensimore, alternate
6. Honorable Judy Ward
7. Honorable Paige Willan
8. Honorable Richard Fitzgerald
9. Honorable James Vasilko
10. Honorable Mike Pritchard
11. Honorable James Foreman
12. Honorable Dan DeBone

Commissioners Not Present

1. Honorable Michael Carroll

MINUTES:

ON A MOTION by Ms. Paige Willan, seconded by Mr. James Vasilko, and unanimously approved, the December 17, 2025, STC business meeting minutes were accepted.

MINUTES:

ON A MOTION by Ms. Willian, seconded by Senator Ward, and unanimously approved, the January 21, 2026, STC special business meeting minutes were accepted.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW STC MEMBERS:

Commissioner Michael introduced several newly appointed STC Members. They are:

- Richard Fitzgerald
- James Vasilko
- Mike Pritchard
- James Foreman
- Dan DeBone

In addition, Commissioner Paige Willian was reappointed to another term as a commissioner.

The Commission observed a moment of silence for former Commissioner Chad Amond, and Commissioner DeBone said a few remarks about Mr. Amond.

12-YEAR TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM:

Deputy Secretary for Planning, Ms. Kristin Mulkerin, provided an update on the adjustments to the 12-Year Program (TYP).

For the period from November 29, 2025, to January 30, 2026, there were 555 adjustments comprised of 154 additions, 384 changes, and 17 removals. This represents a \$16,316,867 increase for the reporting period.

Ms. Mulkerin highlighted several projects, including the Rocky Mountain Creek Bridge project in Franklin County, which will replace the bridge carrying US 30 over Rocky Mountain Creek. This project change increased the construction phase.

The second project highlighted was the I-80 concrete rehabilitation project in Jefferson County. This project change added the project to the interstate management TIP. This project will preserve the safety of the travelling public.

ON A MOTION by Ms. Willan and seconded by Mr. DeBone, the 2025 12-Year Program Adjustments were approved.

REPORTS

Executive Report

Executive Deputy Secretary Larry Shifflet delivered a brief executive report. A full-year appropriations bill has been signed in Congress, and the IIJA expires on September 30, 2026, with discussions for a new surface transportation bill underway.

Administrative/Budget

Deputy Secretary for Administration, Mr. Corey Pellington, gave an update.

Upcoming Guaranteed Energy Savings Act (GESA) projects include proposals for LED lighting upgrades to the Pittsburgh tunnels. The energy savings from the project will pay for the project itself.

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.

The Department is continuing with an expansion of the internship program, including engineering internships. The Department is under a 3% vacancy rate overall, with operators under 5% vacancy. The Department has hired 315 temporary operating positions for winter, and an increase in permanent operator positions and mechanic positions.

Ms. Willan asked about the DBE program and what Pennsylvania is doing differently from other states and why. Mr. Pellington stated that every state has a different structure for certifying DBE. Pennsylvania was better positioned to respond to the new interim final rule, as it updated its program in 2024 and sought to simplify the DBE program so businesses could have an easier time working with the Commonwealth.

Driver and Vehicle Services

Deputy Secretary for Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS), Ms. Kara Templeton, gave an update for Driver and Vehicle Services. She delivered updates on new license plates, Road User Charges and its implementation, and customer service enhancements. The Department continues to issue REAL IDs to customers who want one, and TSA has a Confirm ID program to verify identities for customers at airports for \$45 per 10-day travel window.

Susquehanna County passed an ordinance to participate in the Fee for Local Use program.

Highway and Bridge Program

Deputy Secretary for Highway Administration, Ms. Christine Norris, highlighted several Highway and Bridge Program updates, including state-owned bridge conditions, highway pavement conditions, reported fatalities, and the work zone speed safety camera program. Ms. Norris noted that poor conditions with state-owned bridge and highway pavement conditions would begin to trend upwards in future years. Reported fatalities continue to fall, except in a few categories, and the work zone speed safety camera program appears to have a positive effect on safety. Existing and planned truck parking locations were discussed. 24 new locations, which add 340 truck parking spaces, have been opened as of December 2025.

The Department let 115 projects in the 4th Quarter of 2025 for a cost of \$1.1 billion. In the 2025 calendar year, the Department let just under 500 projects at a cost of \$3.3 billion. The 2026 letting goal is to let \$4 billion, with \$1 billion allocated to the I-83 South Bridge project. The Bid Price index has leveled off, and 93% of construction projects were completed on time in the 4th quarter.

Mr. Foreman asked how Pennsylvania fared relative to other states with challenges in pavement and bridge conditions, and whether Senators McCormick and Fetterman have data on existing conditions. Ms. Norris stated that Pennsylvania ranks among the third highest for our bridge network and that the Commonwealth is fifth in the nation for state-maintained highways. She stated that she would follow up about the other states. Mr. Shifflet noted that in 2023, the Commonwealth was first in the nation in addressing poor bridge condition and stated that the Department has shared data with Congress.

Multimodal Transportation

Mr. Tony McCloskey of the Bureau of Aviation delivered the Multimodal update on behalf of Deputy Secretary for Multimodal Transportation, Ms. Meredith Biggica. He delivered updates on Rail Freight grants, passenger rail (noting that the Keystone Line has volumes 90% of its pre-COVID level), the State Rail Plan, the Transit Agency Facility Assessment, and the Aviation System Plan. The Multimodal Deputate is also developing a scope of work to update the Active Transportation Plan.

Office of Planning

Deputy Secretary for Planning, Ms. Kristin Mulkerin, gave an update from the Office of Planning. The 2027 12-Year Program process is underway, and the Department received the draft regional TIPs at the end of 2025. Fiscal constraint, air quality conformity, and funding eligibility reviews are underway. Regional public comment periods for the TIPs will begin in the spring. The TIPs are then rolled into the STIP, which will have its public comment period in June, and the 2027 12-Year Program will be up for adoption at the August STC meeting.

The Department monitors Federal discretionary grant opportunities, and \$2.8 billion has been awarded to Pennsylvania through the IIJA. In December, the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program announced its awards, and Pennsylvania received ten planning grants and one implementation grant.

The Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) applications are currently being reviewed, and awards are anticipated to be announced in the Spring of 2026.

The Freight Workgroup is working to update the 2045 Freight Movement Plan, which is anticipated to be completed in the Summer of 2026.

The P3 Board met in December and continues to work through several of the proposals submitted.

Ms. Willan asked about unsolicited P3 Proposals in the Philadelphia area, namely the I-76 Schuylkill Expressway Managed Lanes and the South Philadelphia Accelerated Ramp Connections. Ms. Mulkerin stated that both were received as unsolicited proposals in October, and the Managed Ramp interchange proposal is in the high-level screening process. The Managed Lanes proposal is a resubmittal. The P3 office is working through the screening process for the P3s.

Transportation Advisory Committee

TAC Chair Jody Holton delivered a brief report for the Transportation Advisory Committee, which met on February 2, 2026, stating that the TAC has approved the most recent TAC Annual Report for calendar year 2025, and that the TAC will be meeting on April 8, 2026, where new study topics will be discussed and potentially approved for study. There are two topics that are proposed: A Pennsylvania Transportation Funding Assessment and Zipper Merging Behavior.

WORKING SESSION: NEVI Program Update

Mr. Colton Brown delivered a report on the Pennsylvania National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) plan. The NEVI program, authorized by the IIJA in 2021, provided \$171.5 million for the Commonwealth.

NEVI funds must be used for publicly funded infrastructure. Stations must have at least 4 charging ports and use a Combined Charging System (CCS) adapter, making them compatible with 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 2025 shows 51,306 EV Charging sessions, 2,055,497 kWh in electricity dispensed, and an estimated 1,313 metric tons of CO₂ 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. 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.

Mr. Shelley asked for statistics on the amount of alternative fuel tax revenue collected from NEVI stations. Mr. Brown said that the Department of Revenue collects this data and that he did not know whether there was a distinction between NEVI and other charging stations that collect the tax, but that overall data is available.

Mr. DeBone commented on the electric vehicle market and on the strength of the NEVI program in Pennsylvania.

Ms. Willan asked if there were active NEVI projects across the Route 6 Corridor in the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania, based on the NEVI map. Mr. Brown stated the Department was looking for projects in those regions, especially where two major corridors meet. In addition, charging stations are being installed in various state parks.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT:

Mr. DeBone delivered a brief report, stating that the Commission can help PennDOT in educating the public about transportation investments.

Ms. Willan delivered a brief report, stating her gratitude for PennDOT staff and its winter services.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

OTHER BUSINESS:

None

NEXT MEETING:

The next STC quarterly meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 13, 2026.**

ADJOURNMENT:

ON A MOTION by Ms. Willan and seconded by Mr. Vasilko, the STC quarterly meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

Follow-ups: