

PENNSYLVANIA STATE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
BUSINESS MEETING
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
FEBRUARY 7, 2022



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.

CALL TO ORDER:

The business meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was called to order on Microsoft Teams at 10:02 a.m. on February 7, 2022.

CHAIR'S REMARKS:

TAC Chair, Ms. Jody Holton, AICP, gave brief remarks welcoming TAC members to the meeting.

Ms. Holton reminded attendees that all TAC meetings are recorded for minute-taking purposes.

Ms. Holton said that Mr. Joe Butzer's term has expired, and Ms. Rebecca Oyler has been appointed to the TAC.

Ms. Oyler, President & CEO of the Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association, introduced herself.

MINUTES:

ON A MOTION by Mr. Ronald Wagenmann and seconded by Mr. Mark Murawski, and unanimously approved, the Minutes of the December 2, 2021, TAC Business Meeting were accepted.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

SECRETARY'S REMARKS:

Deputy Secretary for Planning, Larry Shifflet, provided brief remarks discussing the Governor's 2022 Budget address.

Mr. Shifflet said that the Department continues to work on the 2023 12-Year Program update, which will be presented to the STC for adoption in August 2022.

Mr. Shifflet said the Department continues to have discussions with Planning Partners on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's (BIL) guidance and implementation.

Mr. Shifflet also discussed the Continuing Resolution for Federal Funding and the Financial Guidance update.

Mr. Murawski asked if the state match for the BIL funding issue had been resolved?

Mr. Shifflet said that the Department is still working on the issue and will do everything possible to leverage all the Federal funds available.

Deputy Secretary Jennie Louwse commented that Aviation projects match is also an issue because of the decrease in jet fuel sale tax revenue. She added that the Department is also working to resolve the issue.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION UPDATE:

Administration

Ms. Michelle Jennings, Deputy Secretary for Administration, gave a brief report about her Deputate.

Ms. Jennings said that the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) continues to operate with partial telework. She added that there are ongoing discussions for better utilization of available parking spaces.

Ms. Jennings explained that the transformation initiative centralized Human Resources employees who worked for individual state agencies into the Office of Administration. She noted that Talent Acquisition employees would be part of the next centralization.

Ms. Jennings said that the Bureau of Innovation hosted an Innovation Awards Ceremony in December 2021. She noted that twenty-six permanent members of District 12's Safety, Quality and Innovation Council received the first-ever George W. McAuley, Jr., P.E. Innovation Award, recognizing their contributions to promoting and fostering innovation at PennDOT.

Ms. Jennings discussed the Mentor-Protégé Program, which is a collaboration with the Department, Transportation Industry Groups, and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) that resulted from the 2018 Disparity Study. The Study concluded that there were barriers for small businesses and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) preventing them from competing in the prime consulting and construction market with the Department.

Driver and Vehicle Services

Ms. Kara Templeton gave a brief update for the Drivers and Vehicles Services Deputate. Ms. Templeton discussed the Entry-Level Driver Training (ELDT), which took effect on February 7, 2022. The ELDT requires any individual who would like to obtain a commercial driver's license (CDL) or upgrade their existing commercial driver license to meet minimum training requirements. She added that the ELDT regulations are not retroactive.

Highway and Bridge Program

Acting Deputy Secretary Mr. Michael Keiser, P.E., gave an update about Highway Administration Deputate.

Mr. Keiser discussed the Digital Delivery Initiative, which aims to modernize PennDOT's project delivery processes and contract document media to incorporate digital data. The Initiative will design and bid construction projects using 3-D technology by 2025.

Mr. Keiser explained that the 2021 letting program increased to \$2 billion due to funding provided by the General Assembly and the Wolf Administration. The 2022 letting program increased to \$2.5 billion due to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Mr. Keiser noted that temporary hiring for winter maintenance remains challenging, but the Department has contingency plans, including Mobile Teams and equipment rental options.

Mr. Murawski commented about the Forbes Avenue over Fern Hollow Bridge, which collapsed on January 28. He asked if the bridge inspection report would be made public?

Mr. Keiser answered that the bridge inspection reports for PennDOT-owned bridges are confidential. He noted that the National Transportation Safety Board is investigating to determine the causes of the collapse. He added that PennDOT has access to local bridge inspection reports but does not share those with the public.

Mr. Pocius commented that the City of Scranton had the same issue when a bridge was posted and decided against releasing the inspection report.

Multimodal Transportation

Ms. Jennie Louwrese, AICP, Deputy Secretary for Multimodal Transportation, gave a brief update discussing the official ribbon cutting for the Middletown train station, which occurred on January 18, 2022. Ms. Louwrese said that the Coatesville train station is also under construction.

Ms. Louwrese also discussed aviation project match issues compounded by jet fuel tax decrease. She noted that the Department is working on ways to leverage all available federal funding.

Ms. Louwrese said that the Port Authority of Allegheny County halted transit traffic along a part of its South Busway after engineers discovered a portion of the Saw Mill Run Boulevard Bridge had shifted.

Office of Planning

Deputy Secretary for Planning, Mr. Larry Shifflet, gave a brief update about his Deputate.

Mr. Shifflet discussed the Municipal Liquid Fuels Tax Funds, which are set to be distributed on March 1, 2022. He noted that the estimates are down compared to previous years because gas tax revenue is down. Mr. Shifflet said that the final estimates would be released soon.

Mr. Shifflet noted that the funds would be distributed based on 2020 Census data.

Pennsylvania Active Transportation Plan (ATP)

Ms. Michelle Tarquino, PennDOT Multimodal Executive Assistant, gave an update on the PA Active Transportation Plan (ATP) strategies and implementation.

Ms. Tarquino explained that the ATP had identified six main themes to fulfill its vision, including:

- Enhance safety
- Provide transportation equity
- Connect walking and bicycle networks
- Leverage partnerships
- Improve public health
- Increase economic mobility

Ms. Tarquino discussed specific goals for each theme.

Ms. Tarquino noted that the ATP and companion documents serve as a resource for Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), Rural Planning Organizations (RPOs), and Municipalities throughout Pennsylvania, guiding local governments to develop and implement regional and local bicycle and pedestrian plans.

Ms. Tarquino said that the Multimodal Deputate is coordinating with internal and external partners to implement identified actions in the ATP; and will further coordinate with other Deputates on the consolidation of activities in additional Statewide plans.

Ms. Oyler asked if there are any discussions of the Public-Private Partnerships initiatives in the ATP?

Ms. Tarquino answered no.

Ms. Holton asked if the plan discusses long-term funding options for active transportation facilities for MPO/RPOs, or how to fund the improvements?

Ms. Tarquino said that the ATP does not discuss that because the long-term maintenance of active transportation facilities is the responsibility of municipalities.

WORKING SESSION:

2021 Study Update:

Importance of and Funding for Pedestrian Transportation

The TAC voted to remove this Study because the scope of work overlaps with the Active Transportation Plan.

ON A MOTION by Mr. Mark Murawski and seconded by Mr. John Pocius, and unanimously approved, the Importance of and Funding for Pedestrian Transportation study topic was removed.

Public Transit Demand and Post-Pandemic Mobility Planning and Address Economic Disparities in Rural PA by Increasing Transportation Options

Mr. Aarion Franklin, from Michael Baker International, briefed the TAC on the study progress. He highlighted results from three surveys that were distributed to the public, Planning Organizations, and Transportation Providers:

General Public:

- 1,122 responses
- 70% identify as living in suburban or rural areas

MPOs/RPOs:

- 39 organizations responded
- 46% have employees working in-person five days a week

Transportation Providers:

- 17 organizations responded
- 47% Rural providers
- 59% of respondents provide both fixed-route and shared ride
- 31% have conducted their own post-COVID travel needs surveys
- 56% did not alter service during the pandemic

Mr. Franklin said that the data gathered from the surveys would be analyzed and shared at the next task force meeting.

Mr. Franklin also noted that the task force held their third meeting on February 2, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Ad Hoc Demand for Alternate Uses of State Right-of-Way Committee

Mr. Brian Funkhouser briefed the TAC on the progress of this Ad Hoc Committee's work.

Mr. Funkhouser explained that the Ad Hoc Committee is reviewing barriers to obtaining permits for alternate uses of state-owned right-of-way for community events and activities such as parades, races, open streets, art festivals, and street fairs.

Mr. Funkhouser discussed some identified issues, including:

- Indemnification requirements
- Detour constraints and signage
- Traffic control plans
- Ensuring safety for all modes within the ROW
- A future concern: public EV charging stations

Mr. Funkhouser said that the Committee would review Pennsylvania municipal case studies and best practices from other states.

Mr. Funkhouser noted that the Study Team had meetings with the State of New York officials. He added that the State of New York has an online resource for project sponsors.

Mr. Funkhouser also noted that the Ad Hoc Committee, which is chaired by Ronald Wagenmann, will hold a second task force meeting after the TAC meeting from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. He added that the Study is scheduled to be completed in March 2022.

2022 TAC Study Selection Process

The TAC continued discussions on the 2022 study topics selection process. TAC members submitted study topics for review and ranking. The two highest-ranked topics are:

- *PA Aviation Needs Assessment and Strategic Action Plan* by Mark Murawski and Dr. Larry Nulton
- *Automated Speed Enforcement* by Gustave Scheerbaum

Mr. Murawski discussed the *PA Aviation Needs Assessment and Strategic Action Plan*, which will conduct an examination of collective needs of the state's aviation system, including:

- Infrastructure capital investment needs
- Financing
- Technological advancements
- Legislative reforms

Mr. Murawski noted that the study will be conducted in close collaboration with PennDOT's Bureau of Aviation, in addition to the Pennsylvania Aviation Advisory Committee and the Pennsylvania Aviation Council.

Mr. Murawski and Dr. Larry Nulton will serve as co-chairs for the study task force.

Deputy Secretary for Multimodal Transportation Jennie Louwerse commented that she strongly supports the study topic. She added that even without the COVID-19 related revenue loss, funding for aviation has not kept up with needs.

ON A MOTION by Ms. Felicia Dell and seconded by Mr. Ronald Wagenmann, and unanimously approved, the *PA Aviation Needs Assessment and Strategic Action Plan* study topic was approved for scoping.

Mr. Scheerbaum discussed the *Automated Speed Enforcement* study topic, explaining that the similar topics were the subject of TAC reports in 2011 and 2017. He also noted that a Pilot Program is being implemented in Philadelphia under the Corridor Automated Speed Enforcement Initiative (CASE).

Mr. Scheerbaum noted that the program requires that revenue generated from the speed enforcement be spent on safety in the area the program is being implemented.

Ms. Fackler proposed that the study looks at the broader speed enforcement programs in the Commonwealth since the CASE program is only being administered by the City of Philadelphia.

Mr. Scheerbaum noted that CASE has State approval and is being administered by the Philadelphia Parking Authority.

Ms. Fackler said that PennDOT only approved the installation of cameras, but PennDOT is not running the program.

Mr. Funkhouser said that the scope could be refined to add other programs. He said that the Study Team is anticipating a White Paper format for this study topic.

Mr. Scheerbaum noted that the pilot program is set to expire in October 2023.

Ms. Holton commented about moving forward with the white paper that has to have findings before the Pilot Program's expiration to be relevant. There is an opportunity to do additional white papers or quicker turnaround items on the other programs if needed.

Additionally, Mr. Michael Carroll will chair the study task force, while Mr. Ronald Wagenmann will serve as co-chair.

ON A MOTION by Mr. Gustave Scheerbaum, on behalf of Mr. Michael Carroll, and seconded by Mr. Ronald Wagenmann, and unanimously approved, the *Automated Speed Enforcement* study topic was approved for scoping.

TRANSPORTATION REVENUE OPTIONS COMMISSION (TROC) PHASE 1 - STATUS REPORT: By Mr. Larry Shifflet and Senator Wayne Langerholc

Mr. Larry Shifflet and Senator Wayne Langerholc gave an update on the TROC phase one recommendations.

Mr. Shifflet explained that the TROC separated its recommendations into three phases, encompassing short-, medium-, and long-term solutions. Funding options available in the short-term and near-term include a Mileage-Based User Fee (MBUF) for Electric Vehicles (EVs), increased vehicle registration fees, an electric vehicle fee, corridor and managed lane tolling, a vehicle lease fee, and a package delivery fee.

Mr. Shifflet added that eliminating funding transfers from the Motor License Fund to the Pennsylvania State Police is also part of the near-term recommendations.

Senator Langerholc discussed various initiatives being discussed in the Senate Transportation Committee, including the MBUF for EVs. He added that the proposal would institute a three-cent per mile fee for EVs.

Senator Langerholc said that another proposal being discussed is the Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicles (GARVEEs), which enable States to pay debt service and other bond-related expenses with future Federal-aid highway funds.

Senator Langerholc noted that a bipartisan effort is needed to solve the transportation funding issue.

2021 TAC ANNUAL REPORT: By Mr. Daniel Keane

The TAC voted to approve the 2021 Annual Report. The report highlights the most recent studies the TAC has completed in the calendar year 2021. It provides the study purpose, completion dates, and the findings and recommendations for the four completed studies. It also includes a listing of the ongoing studies.

ON A MOTION by Ms. Brenda Sandberg and seconded by Mr. Ronald Wagenmann, and unanimously approved, the 2021 TAC Annual Report was approved with changes.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

NEXT MEETING:

The next TAC business meeting is scheduled to be held virtually on **Thursday, April 21, 2022.**

ADJOURNMENT:

ON A MOTION by Mr. Ronald Wagenmann and seconded by Mr. John Pocius, and unanimously approved, the TAC meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Attendance from the TAC Business Meeting
December 2, 2021

1. Ms. Jody Holton, AICP, Chair
2. Mr. Larry Shifflet, alternate for Ms. Yassmin Gramian, P.E., TAC member
3. Mr. Rodney Bender, alternate for Ms. Gladys Brown Dutrieuille, TAC member
4. Mr. Paul Opiyo, alternate for Mr. Dennis Davin, TAC member
5. Mr. Fred Strathmeyer, alternate for Mr. Russel Redding, TAC member
6. Ms. Tiffany Landis, alternate for Mr. Patrick McDonnell, TAC member
7. Senator Wayne Langerholc Jr., TAC member
8. Senator Tim Kearney, TAC member
9. Mr. Josiah Shelly, alternate for Representative Tim Hennessey, TAC member
10. Ms. Meredith Biggica, alternate for Representative Mike Carroll, TAC member
11. Mr. Alan Blahovec, CCPM, TAC member
12. Mr. Elam Herr, TAC member
13. Mr. Mark Murawski, TAC member
14. Ms. Felicia Dell, TAC member
15. Ms. Brenda Sandberg, TAC member
16. Mr. Ronald Wagenmann, TAC member
17. Ms. Rebecca Oyler, TAC member
18. Mr. Gustave Scheerbaum, Director Strategic Initiatives at City of Philadelphia
19. Mr. Donald Detwiler, TAC member
20. Mr. John Pocius, TAC member
21. Mr. Ashley Porter, TAC member
22. Ms. Michelle Jennings, PennDOT
23. Ms. Jennie Louwarse, AICP, PennDOT
24. Mr. Michael Keiser, P.E., PennDOT
25. Ms. Kara Templeton, PennDOT
26. Ms. Erin Waters-Trasatt, PennDOT
27. Ms. Sarah Clark, PennDOT
28. Mr. Shane Rice, PennDOT
29. Ms. Natasha Fackler, PennDOT
30. Mr. Abdoul Ahmed, PennDOT
31. Mr. Brian Hare, P.E., PennDOT
32. Ms. Karen Heath, PennDOT
33. Mr. Daniel Keane, PennDOT
34. Mr. Mark Tobin, PennDOT
35. Mr. Brian Sharkey, PennDOT
36. Mr. Terry Pinder, PennDOT
37. Mr. Daryl St. Clair, PennDOT
38. Mr. Brian Walter, PennDOT

39. Mr. David Lapadat, PennDOT
40. Ms. Michele Tarquino, PennDOT
41. Ms. Jessica Clark, PennDOT
42. Mr. Matt Smoker, FHWA
43. Ms. Margaret Durkin, Bravo Group
44. Mr. Brian Funkhouser, Michael Baker Int'l
45. Mr. Aarion Franklin, Michael Baker Int'l
46. Mr. Troy Truax, Michael Baker Int'l
47. Ms. Jessica Passiment, Michael Baker Int'l
48. Mr. Aaion Fisher, Michael Baker Int'l
49. Mr. Jim Ritzman, Pennoni

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