

Pedestrian and Pedalcycle Advisory Committee Minutes

Meeting Date: September 14th, 2021, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm – Held Virtually

Member Roll Call

- The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by Sarah Stuart. Roll was taken, and a quorum was declared. Committee members in attendance were:
- Lauri Ahlskog, Jason Gerard (alternate for Senator Sabatina), Roy Gothie (alternate for Secretary Yassmin Gramian), Ben Guthrie, William Hoffman, Chandra Kannan, Diane Kripas (alternate for Secretary Cindy Dunn), Yocasta Lora, Samantha Pearson (alternator Julie Fitzpatrick), Nolan Richie (alternate for Senator Wayne Langerholc), Fred Richter, Sarah Stuart, and Kyle Wagonseller (alternate for Representative Carroll)
- Others in attendance: Natasha Fackler (PennDOT Policy Office); Ross Willard (Recycle Bicycle); Michelle Tarquino (PennDOT MM); Justin Lehman (Department of Health); Shane Rice (PennDOT Policy Office)

Opening Comments

- Sarah Stuart opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

Approve Minutes

- Nolan Ritchie corrected a bill number in the June 8, 2021, meeting minutes. Laurie Ahlskog made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Second by Ben Guthrie. The minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote.

Agency Updates

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT)

- Roy Gothie discussed Pittsburgh's e-scooters information (See attachment #1)
- Michelle Tarquino was introduced as the new Executive Assistant to the Deputy Secretary for Multimodal, Jennie Louwerse.
- Casey Bottiger, a consultant from Michael Baker, presented a Power Point on the Long Range Transportation Plan and the integral part active transportation is to multi-modal transportation. (See Attachment#2) Casey's presentation garnered a series of questions by PPAC members. The comment period on the LRTP is until October 19,2021 (See Attachment #2)

- Chair Sarah Stuart asked if past minutes will be posted on the PPAC website. PennDOT staff confirmed prior agendas and meeting minutes will be made available on the website.
- PPAC had questions with regard to the PennDOT Connects process and how it might be working across the Commonwealth. A Connects presentation will be an agenda item at the December PPAC meeting and will include several District Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinators.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

- John Crum, Federal Highway Administration, noted that they are still awaiting an infrastructure bill to be passed by congress. Internally, they are working on documents related to complete streets guidance.

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)

- Diane Kripas (alternate for Secretary Cindy Dunn) provided an update on the Pennsylvania Trails and Greenways Conference and the Trail of the Year award. (See Attachment #3)

Department of Health (DOH)

- Justin Lehman provided an update on the Walkworks Program (See Attachment#4)

Legislative Updates

- Nolan Richie provided his report. (See Attachment #5) " The Fall Session of the PA Legislature begins next week." (9/15/21)
- Sam Pearson representing Healthy Communities comments on her role and vision.
- Sam Pearson requested examples of alternate uses of right-of-way during Covid.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:16pm

Next Meeting

- December 14th, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
- Via Microsoft Teams link

Attachment #1

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT)

1. City of Pittsburgh launched an e-scooter pilot program following the passage of legislation on July 9th. One hundred scooters were provided initially at hubs across Northside, Downtown, and other areas. The plan will expand to potentially 1000 scooters.

All e-scooters are outfitted with front and rear lights, side reflectors, and a bell. A fully charged e-scooter has a range of 30 miles, weigh 50 pounds, and have 10" wheels. All e-scooters are geofenced which will restrict users (16 year of age or older) on highways and ramps, streets with speed limits above 25 mph, parks and plazas. More information may be found here:
<https://move-pgh.com/>

2. PennDOT's Strategic Highway Safety Plan is being updated. Several committee members including Sarah Stuart, Scott Bricker, and Lauri Ahlskog participated in the Vulnerable Roadway Users sub-committee meeting on July 16th. Feedback from the group is being incorporated into strategies underpinning the plan as is PennDOT's material from the Active Transportation Plan.

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2045 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

L RTP – ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION TRENDS

Significant growth associated with the COVID-19 pandemic

30% of Pennsylvanians find it “challenging” to walk in their community

58% of Pennsylvanians found it “challenging” to ride a bike within their community

Funding opportunities for trails have grown significantly



LRTP GOALS

Safety

- Enhance safety and security throughout Pennsylvania's transportation system

Mobility

- Strengthen transportation mobility to meet the increasingly dynamic needs of Pennsylvania residents, businesses, and visitors.

Equity

- Improve transportation access and equity throughout the Commonwealth.

Resilience

- Promote Pennsylvania transportation's resilience to climate change and other risks and reduce transportation's environmental impacts.

Performance

- Improve the condition and performance of transportation assets.

Resources

- Structure transportation funding and finance approaches that allocate sufficient resources for system improvement, maintenance, and preservation.



ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION CONNECTIONS

GOAL

Safety

OBJECTIVES

Reduce the rate and frequency of fatal and serious injury crashes for all modes of travel.

STRATEGIES

Continue to expand public education on active transportation safety.

Offer technical assistance and best practices to regional and local partners to promote active transportation safety.



ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION CONNECTIONS

GOAL

Mobility

OBJECTIVES

Provide and prioritize multimodal transportation choices to meet user needs, expand mobility options, and increase system capacity and connectivity.

Improve public transportation and active transportation awareness, access, and services throughout Pennsylvania.

STRATEGIES

Consider widened shoulders on state routes that provide connectivity for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Update Pub 13 to include chapters on traffic calming and pedestrian design.

Collect data on pedestrian and bicycle facilities on state roads near transit stations and multimodal hubs to help prioritize improvements.



ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION CONNECTIONS

GOAL

Equity

OBJECTIVES

Evaluate transportation equity issues across Pennsylvania.

Improve equity and accessibility through ADA improvements and modal choice.

STRATEGIES

Establish a statewide transportation equity task force.

Conduct a statewide summit on Transportation Equity in collaboration with key stakeholder groups.

Establish best practices to engage individuals from zero car households in traditionally underserved communities.



ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION CONNECTIONS

GOAL

Resources

OBJECTIVES

Improve planning and analytical tools to adapt to changes impacting transportation

STRATEGIES

Develop and regularly update a statewide bicycle and pedestrian inventory or database.



PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

- PPAC Implementation Perspectives
- Relationship to Active Transportation Plan implementation
- Future involvement in areas of interest



SCHEDULE-TO-CLOSE

| Month | Major Activity |
|---------------------|---|
| September | Public Comment Period Opens (September 20) Plan Refinement |
| October | Public Comment Period Closes (October 19) |
| November | Plan Refinement Continues Plan Finalization |
| December | Strategic Actions and Initiatives Completion Plan Adoption and Rollout STC Presentation |
| January 2022 | Implementation Begins |



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Attachment #3

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)

The 2021 Trail of the Year is the D&L Trail – our planned September 1 celebration was rained out by Hurricane Ida. Note: DCNR held the event on 9/28/21. The 38-mile D&H Rail-Trail extends through Lackawanna, Susquehanna, and Wayne counties and traces the former corridor of the Delaware & Hudson Railways which primarily carried anthracite coal out of the Lackawanna Valley a century ago.

[DCNR Celebrates D & H Rail-Trail as Pennsylvania's 2021 Trail of The Year \(pa.gov\)](#)

2021 Pa Greenway and Trail Summit is being held in Erie September 19-21. Secretary Dunn and PennDOT Deputy Secretary Jenn Louwerse co-presenting.'

DCNR is seeking new members for the 2022 Pennsylvania Trails Advisor Committee – for more information click here: [DCNR Seeking New Members for 2022 Trails Advisory Committee \(pa.gov\)](#)

DCNR is getting ready to announce we are accepting nominations for the 2022 Trail of the Year. Nominations must be submitted online by November 12, 2021. We encourage PPAC to work with their partners and nominate their favorite trail

Attachment #4

Department of Health (DOH)

WalkWorks is a program focused on increasing physical activity opportunities through the development of active transportation plans or similar policies, such as Complete Streets policies and the implementation of walking routes in communities. The aim of the plans or similar policies is to facilitate the development of activity-friendly routes to everyday destinations through active transportation and land use plans and policies at the local and regional levels. To date, 24 communities have developed and adopted 26 plans or policies.

1. The Pennsylvania Downtown Center (PDC) become the new WalkWorks partner March 1. PDC has a variety of local and statewide partnerships and are involved in many projects. They coordinate the Main Street and Elm Street Program in Pennsylvania which is a comprehensive strategy to revitalize downtown and neighborhood business districts.
 - PDC hired Samantha Pearson as their new Healthy Communities Program Manager in August. Sam will be replacing Carol Reichbaum, who is retiring at the end of September.
2. Nine (9) communities have submitted or will be submitting their plans or policies to their local governing board for adoption this month.
 - DCNR provided funds to fully support one plan and one policy.
3. WalkWorks recently selected and notified 10 municipalities or other similar entities their applications were selected to receive funding and technical assistance for the development and adoption of an Active Transportation Plan or Complete Streets Policy. Each entity is expected to adopt their plan by 9/30/22.
 - Communities are from the following counties: Allegheny, Berks, Indiana, Lancaster, Montgomery and Susquehanna.
 - DCNR is providing funds to support 2 of these plans.
 - The WalkWorks map was updated with the newest communities.
4. Find WalkWorks on the map!
 - Go to www.pawalkworks.com and click on the Locations tab.
5. 2021 Chronic Disease Burden Report for Pennsylvania
https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/Programs/ChronicDiseaseBurdenReport_8-18-2021.pdf
6. Walk to School Day 2021 is slated for October 6, though participation is encouraged throughout October.

Attachment #5

Legislative Updates

Distracted Driving

HB 37 (Brown):

- **Overview:** Prohibits drivers from physically holding or supporting with their body an interactive wireless communications device while operating a motor vehicle on a highway or trafficway in this Commonwealth, unless the motor vehicle is parked on the side or shoulder of a highway or trafficway where the motor vehicle is safely able to remain stationary.
 - **Status:** Reported as amended by House Transportation on 3/23/2021. Positioned on 2nd Consideration in the House.
-

e-Scooters

SB 783 (Langerholc and Costa):

- **Overview:** Establishes a two-year e-scooter pilot program in the City of Pittsburgh. Authorizes e-scooters to operate in bike lanes, roadways and bike paths. Regulates e-scooters as pedalcycles. Empowers the City of Pittsburgh to create additional rules for the safe operation of e-scooters.
- **Status:** Reported as amended by Senate Transportation on 6/22/2021. Amended into the [2021 Fiscal Code](#) and effective immediately.
- Senator Langerholc and Senator Costa issued a [joint press release](#). E-scooters will be included as part of [Move PGH](#).

Senator Laughlin:

- **Overview:** The [co-sponsorship memo](#) suggests authorizing e-scooters statewide.
 - **Status:** Not introduced.
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Protected Bike Lanes

HB 140 (Maloney):

- **Overview:** Clarifies motor vehicles shall be parked within 12 inches of the outside lane of the buffer area between a pedalcycle lane or pedestrian plaza.

- **Status:** Reported as amended by House Transportation on 2/4/2021. Passed the House (201-0) on 3/17/2021. Referred to Senate Transportation on 3/18/2021.

Senator Sabatina:

- **Overview:** The [co-sponsorship memo](#) suggests motor vehicles shall be parked within 12 inches of the outside lane of the buffer area between a pedalcycle lane or pedestrian plaza.
 - **Status:** Not introduced.
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Radar/LIDAR for Local Police

SB 419 (Scavello):

- **Overview:** Authorizes radar or lidar for any local police officer. Contains various driver protections such as requiring a local ordinance, training before use, capping the local budget to 10 percent, etc.
- **Status:** Reported as committed by Senate Transportation on 5/25/2021. Passed the Senate, as amended on 3rd Consideration, (49-1) on 6/22/2021.

HB 606 (Rothman):

- **Overview:** Authorizes radar or lidar for full-time or part-time local law enforcement officers, as defined in the bill. Contains various driver protections such as requiring a local ordinance, training before use, capping the local budget to 10 percent, etc. Authorizes moving radar for the State Police as well.
 - **Status:** Reported as amended by House Transportation on 3/16/2021. Amended on 2nd Consideration. Referred to House Appropriations on 3/23/2021.
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Vulnerable Highway Users

- No sponsor
-

e-Bikes

- No sponsor
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DRIVE SMART Act

On June 2, 2021, Senator Wayne Langerholc, Jr. (R-35), chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, unveiled the [DRIVE SMART Act](#), *Delivering Reforms and Investments for Vehicle Efficiency and Supporting Motor carriers, Airports, Rails & trails and Transit agencies*. (“Rails” in this context refers to intercity passenger rail.)

The DRIVE SMART Act was introduced as a comprehensive proposal to reform and invest in the Commonwealth’s multimodal transportation system. Key issues for PPAC are as follows:

- Provide a roadmap towards testing driverless Highly Automated Vehicles.
- Authorize an e-scooter pilot program in Pittsburgh ([S.B. 783](#) – *Langerholc and Costa*). This was enacted via the 2021 Fiscal Code.
- Reallocate funding over 5 years from the Public Transportation Trust Fund to support intercity passenger rail facility upgrades.
- Dedicate more funding from the Multimodal Transportation Fund for active transportation.

Other

PPAC may want to review the following legislation:

- [HB 1073](#) (Malagari): Requires vehicles to stop for pedestrians in crosswalks.
- [HB 1313](#) (Driscoll): Requires red reflectors on wheelchairs and similar electrical mobility devices.