


Transportation Revenue Options Commission (TROC) March 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes






The Transportation Revenue Options Commission (TROC) held its first meeting virtually on March 25, 2021.

PennDOT Secretary Yassmin Gramian, in her role as Commission Chair, opened the meeting by thanking members for their willingness to serve, providing a brief overview of the Commission's charge, and discussing the criticality of transportation in Pennsylvania, the commonwealth's "vascular system."

PennDOT Deputy Secretary Larry Shifflet was authorized to serve as Commission Executive Director. This administrative action provides an appropriate managerial lead to oversee the varied and time-compressed activity of the Commission over the next several months.

The session agenda was as follows:

1. Meeting Objectives
2. Commission Membership
3. TROC Charge and Our Transportation Future
4. TROC Final Product (Concept)
5. Transportation Funding Review
 - What Are You Paying for Transportation?
 - PennDOT's Budget and Funding Sources
 - Efficiencies and Innovation
 - PennDOT PATHways
 - The Need
 - Making a Difference
 - State and Local Funding Options
6. TROC Organizational Considerations
 - Potential Focus Areas
 - Other Approaches
 - Department Roles
 - Commission Member Roles
 - Expectations
 - TROC Charter Concept
 - Guiding Principles
 - Activities by Month
 - Commission Meetings
7. Meeting Summary and Follow-Up



Meeting Objectives


Session facilitator Paul Caulfield provided the following overview of meeting objectives:

- Introduce Commission members and review the charge established by Executive Order 2021-02.
- Establish the context for the Commission’s work and the associated urgency and opportunity.
- Engage Commission members in determining the processes and meeting logistics for their deliberations.
- Begin to define the fiscal implications of alternative revenue approaches.
- Determine whether to create a charter to reflect the charge and guiding principles of the Commission.

Commission Membership

The presentation included a slide of all Commission members as of March 25, 2021.

- Rep. Stan Saylor, Chair, House Appropriations Committee
- Rep. Matthew Bradford, Minority Chair, House Appropriations Committee
- Sen. Pat Browne, Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
- Sen. Vincent Hughes, Minority Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
- Sen. Wayne Langerholc, Chair, Senate Transportation Committee
- Sen. John Sabatina, Minority Chair, Senate Transportation Committee
- Rep. Tim Hennessey, Chair, House Transportation Committee
- Rep. Mike Carroll, Minority Chair, House Transportation Committee
- Gene Barr, Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry
- Carl Belke, Keystone State Railroad Association (KSRRRA)
- Becky Bradley, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
- Laura Chu Wiens, Pittsburgh for Public Transit
- Sarah Clark Stuart, Pennsylvania Pedalcycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Howard Cohen, Temple University
- Mark Compton, Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission
- Patricia Cowley, Pennsylvania Bus Association
- Secretary Dennis Davin, Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development
- Jeffrey DiPerna, ATU Local 85
- Ronald Drnevich, State Transportation Commission
- Secretary Cindy Dunn, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Colonel Robert Evanchick, Pennsylvania State Police
- Rich Fitzgerald, Allegheny County Executive
- Mike Glezer, Wagman
- James Harper Jr., Laborers' International Union of North America
- Secretary C. Daniel Hassell, Pennsylvania Department of Revenue
- Jeffrey L. Iseman, Pennsylvania Statewide Independent Living Council
- Katherine Kelleman, Port Authority of Allegheny County
- Amy Kessler, North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission
- Robert Latham, Associated Pennsylvania Constructors
- Ted Leonard, Pennsylvania AAA Federation
- Secretary Patrick McDonnell, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
- Thomas Melisko, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 66
- Brock Myers, Alan Myers
- Rebecca Oyler, Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association
- Secretary Russell Redding, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
- Leslie Richards, Southeastern Public Transit Authority
- Shawna Russell, Pennsylvania Public Transportation Association
- Dave Sanko, Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors
- Bob Shaffer, Aviation Advisory Committee
- Leeann Sherman, American Council of Engineering Companies of Pennsylvania
- Karl Singleton, Pennsylvania Diversity Coalition
- Matt Smith, Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce
- Secretary Jen Swails, Office of Budget
- Andrew Swank, Swank Construction
- Jerry Sweeney, Southeast Partnership for Mobility
- Secretary Robert Torres, Pennsylvania Department of Aging
- George Wolff, Keystone Transportation Funding Coalition



Following the introduction, Commission members participated in an input activity to identify some of the varied benefits of transportation to the communities and stakeholders they represent.

TROC Charge and Our Transportation Future

Next, the Commission members reviewed the TROC charge issued by Governor Tom Wolf in Executive Order 2021-02 as follows:

The Commission shall . . .

- Develop a comprehensive, strategic proposal for addressing the transportation funding needs of Pennsylvania (Executive Order 2021-02).
- Provide interim reports and recommendations to the Governor.
- Submit a final report no later than August 1, 2021.

Following the review of the charge, Commission members participated in an input activity to identify some of the potential negative consequences to the communities and stakeholders they represent of not addressing the challenge in transportation funding.

TROC Final Product (Concept)

Session facilitator Paul Caulfield then provided an example of what the final product of the Commission's efforts might look like as a high level illustrative outline, stressing that it would be up to the Commission to determine what the final product will entail.

1. Executive Summary
2. Message from the Chair – *What's at Stake?*
3. TROC Overview – Purpose and Evaluation Approach
4. Transportation Needs and Funding Challenges
5. Historical Perspective and Progress to Date
6. The Options and Evaluation Framework
7. Recommendations and Rationale
8. Conclusion

Transportation Funding Review

Next, the Commission members were led through a review of funding data that they had received in advance of the meeting to establish a common knowledge level regarding transportation funding.

The presentation provided information on the costs of transportation, PennDOT's budget and funding sources, and programs and initiatives established to enhance innovation and the efficiency of operations.

The following topics were covered:


- What Are You Paying for Transportation?
- PennDOT's Budget and Funding Sources
- Efficiencies and Innovation
- PennDOT Pathways
- The Need
- Making a Difference
- State and Local Funding Options

Following the review of funding data, Commission members participated in an input activity to identify the "target" revenue for recommendations and any concerns or opportunities that must be considered.

TROC Organizational Considerations

The session then explored the processes and activities the TROC would engage in, as well as its guiding principles and meeting logistics by which it would carry out its charge. Topics covered included:

- Potential Focus Areas
- Other Approaches
- Department Roles
- Commission Member Roles
- Expectations
- TROC Charter Concept
- Guiding Principles
- Activities by Month
- Commission Meetings



As part of this exploration, Commission members participated in input activities to identify additional approaches to be considered and important ground rules/guiding principles to be followed.

Meeting Summary and Follow-Up

The Commission members ended the meeting by providing additional input on challenges, opportunities and concerns for the Commission to address in its work.