

Hampden Township Building, Room 202
Monday, November 20, 2017 - 7:00 PM

MINUTES

DELEGATES IN ATTENDANCE:

Annville Township, Henri Lively	Lower Allen Township, Jack Simpson	South Hanover Township, Stephen Cordaro
Conewago Township, Gary Painter	Lower Paxton Township, Robin Lindsey	Swatara Township, Tom Connolly
Dauphin Borough, Trudy Koppenhaver	Middle Paxton Township, Jim Fisher	Upper Allen Township, Ken Martin
Dillsburg Borough, Mark Ryder	Monroe Township, Carl Kuhl	Wormleysburg Borough, Margie Stuski
Goldsboro Borough, Robert Charles	North Middleton Township, James Hare	
Hampden Township, Nate Silcox	Royalton Borough, Terry Watts	
Highspire Borough, Terry Watts		
Lemoyne Borough, David Beasley		
Londonderry Township, Anna Dale		

NON-VOTING IN ATTENDANCE:

Chris Drda, P.E., ADE PennDOT District 8	Gary Myers, Executive Director, CapCOG
Jim Hertzler, Cumberland County Commissioner	Rhonda Campbell, Administrative Assistant, CapCOG

MUNICIPALITIES NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Camp Hill Borough	Harrisburg City	Paxtang Borough
Carlisle Borough	Hummelstown Borough	Penbrook Borough
Carroll Township	Lower Swatara Township	Shiremanstown Borough
Derry Township	Mechanicsburg Borough	Silver Spring Township
East Hanover Township	Middletown Borough	South Middleton Township
East Pennsboro Township	Monaghan Township	Steelton Borough
Fairview Township	New Cumberland Borough	Susquehanna Township
		West Hanover Township

The meeting was called to order by Margie Stuski at 7:05 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Stuski followed by roundtable Introductions.

Presentation

Gary Myers introduced Chris Drda, P.E., Assistant District Engineer Design, PennDOT District 8

- District 8 encompasses eight counties in central Pennsylvania and has 3400 bridges and 5200 miles of roads.
- There has been a 550% increase in truck traffic on Interstate 81 in the capital area over the past 50 years.
- Eight percent of the nation's freight comes through Central PA.
- The largest percentage increase in population growth in PA is District 8; Cumberland County is the fastest growing county in the state.

- Secretary Leslie S. Richards' number one initiative is PennDOT Connects which includes meetings with municipalities impacted by transportation projects.
- Margie Stuski asked –How long will the repairs slated for the next several years last? CREDC is driving warehouses but infrastructure doesn't support it. Munis are impacted and have to deal with increased traffic. Drda responded that what he is sharing is work over the next three years. Current expansion projects just seem to just try to cure the basics, rather than prepare for the future.
- Jack Simpson shared that he drives Shippensburg to Lower Allen every day and it is very congested. People avoid the interstates because they are so congested and traffic is diverted to municipal roads. This defeats the purpose of having an interstate system. Drda responded that the State's letting program for year is \$2.4 billion for the entire state. The Harrisburg Capital beltway improvements are a \$1 billion project.
- James Hare commented that the Turnpike is turning 3 lanes statewide; seems like they are getting ahead of the problem. Drda clarified that the Turnpike is a separate entity from PennDOT.
- In June 2017 PennDOT let the project to do guiderail and cable median barrier on 81.
- Ken Martin applauded the data that PennDOT analyzes and understands that you can only move as the electorate allows to pay for improvements. PennDOT is rowing upstream just as are municipalities. People want services, but want someone else to pay for it.
- The cost to build one mile of interstate today is \$20 million.
- Jim Fisher noted an error on the last page of the project list regarding Potato Valley Road Bridge – it's a major replacement, not rehabilitation. Drda responded that it cannot be labeled replacement until all process is completed (environmental, etc.).
- Nate Silcox asked if flashing red lights and yellow lights are permitted in District 8. Hampden would like to use flashing lights for non-peak travel times. Drda will facilitate a conversation for Silcox and appropriate individuals.
- Commissioner Jim Hertzler shared there is a need for I81 to be three lanes in all directions at some time. Act 89 provided for additional investment; is PennDOT hearing anything relative to funding from the federal level? Our local economy is dependent on traffic moving through Central PA and on 81. Drda noted there are currently discussions; but nothing more. PennDOT is trying to prepare and be proactive if funding becomes available. They are also meeting with Turnpike Commission to learn from what they have done to widen their roads.
- Drda shared that Penn Pilot has been taking aerial photographs of the area for decades. Every 10 years they take aerial photos. If you look at the photos, you can see the increase in population, businesses, etc. and see why the roads are so congested.
- Tom Connolly – Swatara said on a weekly basis they hear from businesses and residents concerned about losing property in a project slated for 2022. When will they be notified about property loss? Drda responded that PennDOT doesn't know exactly where the road is going to go yet; there is an environmental process to follow. They are not at the point of talking about property seizure. They are doing preliminary surveying; people may be getting authorization to enter letters which allows PennDOT or a consultant to get onto property to gather data. PennDOT is probably years away from any property decision. Drda will get specific information to Connolly.
- Bob Charles asked about I83 South in York County - 581 to 83 south. Drda acknowledged I83 needs widened to three lanes. Recently, Maryland line to exit 4 was resurfaced. There is a diverging diamond going in at exit 4 in 2018/19, which is the first exit in PA; these are 50% more efficient. Also exit 4 to 10 is slated for resurfacing and bridge preservation in 2018/19.

- Terry Watts asked if there are any plans available to help municipalities maintain roadways in areas that are being used as alternates (230 corridor). Drda said nothing significant is planned for RT230.
- Jim Fisher observed that the 550% increase in truck traffic is trucks travelling through PA on their way to somewhere else. Why aren't we pushing them back to the rails? We aren't getting any tolls from the interstates. Is PennDOT looking at truck situation and railroads to try to get back onto rail? DRDA responded that shipment of freight is a combination of rail and trucks. There were conversations about tolling but it is complicated. Technology is there but the impact on businesses, restaurants, etc. have to be considered.
- Jack Simpson shared that he has worked in warehousing for 30+ years and he is hearing that companies have trouble filling warehouse spaces due to congested traffic situations in Central PA. They are choosing to build south in Franklin County, outside of Carlisle or Hagerstown, MD. The warehouses are not equipped with rail docks to unload, which is why you have the tractor trailers delivering freight.
- DRDA said the conversations reinforce the need to have municipalities and the state around the table having conversations about transportation needs.
- Jack Simpson asked if PennDOT could limit a lane to only vehicle traffic (no tractor trailers) when it goes to three lanes on the interstate? Other states do this. Dave Beasley responded that there is a law that says this – problem is it isn't being enforced. There are several places locally with signs saying, "No trucks in right lane."

Consent Agenda

The October Minutes were reviewed and approved. Fisher motioned, Charles seconded. Unanimously approved.

The November Treasurer's Report was reviewed and approved. Silcox motioned. Charles seconded. Unanimously approved.

Executive Director's Report

- Myers presented the budget for ratification. The Board received it in October for review. No questions were received. Fisher made a motion to approve the 2018 Budget. Silcox seconded. Unanimously approved.
- Myers reminded everyone of the December 5 Best Practices in Government Social Media training and encouraged members to send someone to this training.
- Annual Dinner – We have received 10,400 in sponsorships for the Annual Dinner which will be on January 15, 2018 at the Central Hotel and Conference Center, Lower Paxton Township.
- 2018 Meeting Dates were presented to the Board for approval. Charles motioned to approve. Silcox seconded. Unanimously approved. The dates will be advertised in December 2017.
- Stuski asked if the Board wished to waive the December 2017 meeting. Silcox made a motion to cancel the December meeting; Mark Ryder seconded. Unanimously approved.

New Business

Casino Opt Out

- Silcox shared that part of the revenues to balance the state budget are based on gaming expansion (HB271).
- This legislation creates a Category 4 license for a satellite casino. There are 10 authorized and will be auctioned to Category 1 and 2 licensees such as Penn National/Hollywood Casino.
- They allow for 300-700 slots and also gaming tables.
- There is a 25-linear mile radius from an existing Category 1 or 2 Casino under which satellite casinos cannot be located. However, there is some confusion as to whether that means a new casino cannot come into that radius or if it prohibits existing casinos from establishing a satellite.
- Also, it is uncertain where there is an official map of the 25-mile linear radius.
- Commissioner Hertzler said that the Gaming Board website has a list of municipalities opting out.
- Hertzler also said that gaming is going to expand to Truck Stops with video gaming terminals (VGTs). Sites can only have 5 VGTs. It was asked if municipalities can opt out of this as well.
- It is understood that if you are within a 25-mile radius of a Category 1 or 2 casino, you don't have to worry because none can be sited. This would apply to Dauphin County because Penn National/Hollywood casino is located here.
- The Board determined not to take any action at this time.

County Reports

Cumberland County Report – Commissioner Hertzler provided highlights from his report.

- Office of Weights and Measures is working on ways to detect credit card skimmers. Most commonly found on fuel pumps and ATMs.
- The County completed the 2018 budget for \$84m general fund; no general fund tax increases in Cumberland County for the fourth year.
- A new VA Clinic will be located in Upper Allen Township in the summer of 2018 to serve outpatient needs of veterans.
- Cumberland County has formed a partnership with Rabbit Transit to provide free transportation to veterans to the VA Hospital in Lebanon and the new Clinic in Upper Allen Township.

Dauphin County Report – Anna Dale shared highlights. The report was sent with the Board package.

- Commissioners' have formed a joint venture with Habitat for Humanity and area hospitals to launch safe sleep campaign to prevent infant deaths.

TCRPC – Anna Dale shared highlights.

- TCRPC will have an Open House December 6 to meet their new Executive Director, Steve Deck
- On December 11 from 9 to 12:30 a workshop about the 2020 census will be held at the Keystone Building.
- [A copy of the report is included with the minutes.](#)

York County Report – No report was available at meeting time. The following update was received. The only item to report is that the budget will be approved with no tax increase for 2018.

Cumberland Perry Joint Task Force – Rhonda Campbell reported that the Task Force met on November 16.

- Studies continue for the traffic circle at RTS 850 and 34 in Shermans Dale including surveying for a Park and Ride lot.
- Regional Transportation Plan – Four of seven committees have met. The goal is to identify data gaps; all information gathered will be available online.
- HATS meetings are open to the public and municipalities. Municipal representatives are encouraged to attend. The next meetings are December 1 and December 15 at 9 AM at the CAT Board room on Cameron Street.
- Next meeting will be January 25, 2018.

Committee Reports

Public Safety – No meeting.

Legislative Update – Silcox provided a handout with all updates. [A copy is included with the minutes.](#) He provided the following highlights.

- HB 542 – Tax Reform code legalizes the sale of fireworks in PA. This includes up to \$500,000 provided to Fire Commissioner for online training for firefighters.
- HB674 – Fiscal Code If ratified, among other items, amendment would allow municipalities to replace private sewer and water laterals to “Authority “customers laterals.
- SB251 – Radar passed by senate 46-3; moving to the House. Now is the time to reach out to House members. Legislative session goes to end of November 2018, so that is the time left to pass the bill.
- SR6 Commission – Fire and EMS study getting underway soon.
- SWIF – Definition of worker is only if the firefighter is fighting a fire. Not fire police. Not social members, etc. This contradicts a long-standing history of people being covered. It will result in higher rates to municipalities if/when a change is made to include all fire personnel.
- Title 35 – States Emergency Management Code is due for a rewrite. Legislation being introduced which will allow municipalities to appoint Emergency coordinators rather than the governor. It will also require neighboring municipalities to coordinate plans.

PACOG – No update

Cumberland County Radio Advisory Board–

- Martin shared that we surveyed municipalities as to areas where radio coverage is lost. Only a few municipalities responded.
- Fisher asked why this is a COG committee when there are radio improvement efforts in York and Dauphin county as well.
- Stuski responded that to her it is a COG issue, because once Cumberland adopts, it will go to other counties.
- Martin responded that it came to the COG to facilitate inter-county communication.
- Stuski asked if the Board would like it moved to another agenda area; it was decided to leave it in place.

UCC Board of Appeals – Watts shared there are no appeals.

For the Good of the Order

- Fisher asked about the Hampden Township Letter to Gary about the SWIF Firefighter Designation that was included in our package.
- Myers said he shared it in case COG Delegates wanted to do a similar letter.
- Stuski and Myers that we may want to do a resolution.
- HB 1909 was introduced. Stuski would like to support the bill.
- Stuski and Myers are talking to volunteer fire companies to mobilize them. There will be a Volunteer Firefighter day on the Hill.
- The Board decided to take no further action at this time.

Adjourn

Martin made a motion to adjourn. Charles seconded. Unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.