



NORTH CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA REGIONAL PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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NCPRPDC Board Meeting Wednesday, April 24, 2019

Board Members Present

Mark McCracken	Clearfield County
Matthew Quesenberry	Elk County
Daniel Freeburg	Elk County
Jodi Foster	Elk County
Tim Pearson	Elk County
Jeffrey Pisarcik	Jefferson County
James Sleigh	Jefferson County
Jill Martin-Rend	Jefferson County

Staff

James Chorney
Cheryl DePanfilis
Christine Perneski
Jennifer Hibbard
Edward Matts
Robert Rusiewski

Via Conference Call

Dr. Lawrence Feick	McKean County
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Guests

James Ritzman	Deputy Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Jill Grosch	Representative Causer's Office
Tom Kronenwetter	DCED
Vickie Rusnak	PennDOT District 2-0
Thomas G.G. Coppolo	Solicitor
Brian Stockman	Ridgway Record

Chair Matt Quesenberry welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

INTRODUCTIONS

As there were guests present, Chair Quesenberry asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Chair Quesenberry announced that Al Pingie, McKean County Commissioner, passed away and with sadness we offer our condolences to his family. Matt read the obituary that was in the paper. Al was a great friend and will be greatly missed.

MINUTES

With no corrections, additions or amendments to the January 23 Executive Committee Minutes and Full Board of Directors' Minutes , February 27 Executive Committee Minutes and March 27 Executive Committee Minutes, Mark McCracken made the motion to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Jeff Pisarcik. Motion unanimously passed.

GUEST SPEAKER

Jim Chorney introduced James Ritzman, Deputy Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

Pennsylvania's transportation needs are significantly underfunded. PennDOT knows right now they have a shortfall in the Interstate Program. They are anticipating needing \$2.5 billion additional funding. Looking at highways and bridges \$1.8 billion additional funding and Public Transportation an additional \$1.2 billion.

Additional cost pressures further strain resources. Those include emergency repairs, regulatory compliance, modernization and inflation. For example, emergency repairs is \$110M over budget to date in FY 2018-19. Safety and Guiderail Upgrades is \$820M.

Pennsylvania Transportation Funding Sources for FY 2018-2019 is \$8.5 billion. The funding sources are Federal Transit - 5%, Federal Highway and Bridge – 20%, State Public Transportation Assistance Fund – 3%, State Multimodal Transportation Fund - 2%, State Public Transportation Trust Fund – 15% and State Motor License Fund – 55%.

There were five Risks analyzed: Federal Transportation Funding Reduction, Vehicle Sales Tax Provision Repeal, Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission pending litigation, Pennsylvania State Police Transfer Statutory Revision and Reduced Motor License Fund Tax Receipts.

Total potential Risk Impact equals \$18.5 billion cumulative loss in funding through FY 2029-2030. That breaks down to Federal Funding at Risk - \$6 billion, PA Public Transportation Trust Fund and Multimodal Transportation Fund Revenue at Risk - \$5.8 billion and PA Motor License Fund Revenue at Risk - \$6.7 billion.

A question came up about the PA Highway Occupancy Permit system. It takes about a year to get a permit. It was noted that a restaurant in St. Marys is in its fourth try to get the permit. They submit and PennDOT comes back with something else that needs to be done.

This is on a four-lane highway in St. Marys that just had major renovations done to it and has many businesses on it.

Mr. Ritzman said after the meeting he would get specific information and see what he can do.

Matt thanked Mr. Ritzman for his very information presentation.

DISCUSSION

Matt asked Vickie Rusnak of PennDOT District 2-0 if she had anything to bring to our attention. Vickie stated it was nice to be at the meeting as it was her first time at a NC Board Meeting.

Jill Grosch reported that the legislators are working on the budget. She also noted that Representative Causer is working on a bill to keep milk trucks on the road even when the Interstates or Turnpike are closed due to bad weather. Milk is a commodity that can't wait to be picked up. If the trucks don't get to the dairy farms, then the milk has to be dumped.

Jill also noted that Representative Causer, Chairman of the Agricultural Rural Development, is going to be bringing the Ag Committee to St. Marys. There will be several legislators from out of the area that will be coming. There is going to be an open hearing and will be an update on the Timber Industry and some of the struggles that they are facing. That will be on May 16 at the Red Fern in Kersey at 1:00 PM.

Tom Kronenwetter stated that with the closing of Ledvance in St. Marys, he reached out to Julie Slomski and the Governor's Action Team is coming to talk to Ledvance. They will be able to get in TRA and TA to do whatever can be done for the employees. He also reached out to Penn State DuBois to ask about the Tool & Die courses they have at the CEC in St. Marys. Penn State said they could work it out and get courses for some of the employees.

The next Full Board of Directors' meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 24, 2019, in the Teleconference Room at the North Central Office, 49 Ridgmont Drive, Ridgway, PA.

ADJOURN

With no other business to be discussed, Jeff Pisarcik moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jodi Foster. The meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Respectively submitted,

Daniel R. Freeburg
Secretary/Treasurer