

**Meeting Minutes  
State College Borough Transportation Commission  
January 8, 2019**

The State College Borough Transportation Commission (TC) met on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 in Room 304 of the Municipal Building. Chairman Raymond Najjar called the meeting to order at 12:16 p.m.

**Members Present**

Raymond Najjar, Chairman; Richard Garis, Vice-Chairman; Rick Gilmore; Mieke Haeck; Diana Malcom; and Hugh Mose

**Members Absent**

Paul Jovanis

**Others Present**

Deborah Hoag, Director of Public Works; Amy Kerner, Borough Engineer; Anne Messner, Planner/Zoning Officer; Alan Sam, Arborist and Environmental Coordinator; Officer Kevin Winkelblech, State College Police; Albert Carlson, PennDOT; Jackie Sheader, CATA Public Relations Manager; Trish Meek, MPO, CRPA; P. Rick Ward, Parking Department Manager; Jason Thomas, Penn State University; Jasmine Fields, AmeriCorps Representative; and Stacy Hall, Administrative Assistant

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Mose motioned to approve the meeting minutes from December 11, 2018. Mr. Garis seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

**Public Hour – Hearing of Citizens**

There was no one in the audience that spoke during the public hour. However, Ms. Malcom read an e-mail sent to her from Mr. James Graef, a Penn State student and lifetime resident of State College. He wondered if replacing the interchange on University Drive between Foster Avenue and Hasting Street was on the Borough's Work Plan? He thought the grade intersection should be replaced with a normal intersection. Mr. Najjar said that intersection had been discussed previously and the pedestrian traffic over the bridge on football weekends was concerning as it was not designed for pedestrian traffic. Ms. Kerner said that interchange was controlled by PennDOT and added that the bridge was structurally in good condition. She said PennDOT needed to be contacted about adding pedestrian amenities to the bridge. Ms. Malcom inquired if the Borough could communicate these concerns to PennDOT? Mr. Carlson said that municipalities typically go through their Planning Departments with concerns for PennDOT. Ms. Meek referred to a handout she gave members at the beginning of the meeting entitled PennDOT Connects which she said would be a great avenue to report such concerns. She explained that PennDOT Connects was a new PennDOT policy that ensured communication and collaboration happened early in the transportation project development process. It would focus on identifying opportunities to improve safety, mobility, access, preservation and environmental outcomes. She suggested TC members attend one of the two upcoming sessions on January 29 or January 30 to relay their concerns.

Mr. Gilmore asked who was responsible for the traffic patterns on football weekends? He inquired if there was a forum to discuss what was working and what was not? Ms. Hoag answered that the State College Police Department and the Penn State Police coordinate and discuss traffic patterns. Ms. Malcom suggested that a recommendation be made to Council to take a closer look at the interchange on University Drive between Foster Avenue and Hasting Street including a study to look at the space around the bridge to utilize and take care of pedestrian and bike issues. Ms. Hoag said that funding needed to be available for that to get into the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Ms. Meek suggested discussions be

started and then look for funding. She added that funding for the study could possibly be provided by PennDOT. Mr. Gilmore suggested the Borough apply for such funding.

Ms. Malcom made a motion for Council to explore moving forward on a study of pedestrian and bike issues related to the interchange on University Drive between Foster Avenue and Hasting Street and explore funding possibilities. Mr. Garis seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

## **Discussion Items**

### Request for a Work Session

Ms. Hoag said that legally there was no provision for the TC to hold work sessions because anything could be discussed at a regular meeting. Mr. Najjar asked when a member could discuss a topic that was not on the agenda? Ms. Hoag answered she was working on adding a section for that to a regular agenda line up.

### Work Plan Approval

Ms. Hoag informed the Members that the 2019 Budget had been adopted by Council and the 2019 Work Plan was scheduled for approval at the next Borough Council meeting on January 14. She said the updated TC Work Plan was attached to the agenda for review. Mr. Mose commented that the work plan was a great parking place for projects for which funding was not available. He added that members needed to be mindful of that and if a project was on the plan, it did not necessarily mean it would be happening.

### Review of Ordinance Creating Commission and Future Topics

Ms. Hoag said that the ordinance creating the TC along with the Transportation Policy both adopted by Borough Council were attached to the agenda for reference to help the TC understand how the work plan coincides with both. She explained the TC acted in an advisory capacity, and no action taken by the TC would be binding upon the municipality until approved by Borough Council. Mr. Mose said the TC had a lot going on but had not had many opportunities to make recommendations to Council. He suggested that time be taken during each meeting to list what each Member would like to take a look at and then refine that list to the most important topics so a significant recommendation to Council could be made. Ms. Hoag asked the members to e-mail her the top three items they would like added to the next CIP. She said she would create a document incorporating the suggestions received for review at the next meeting. Mr. Najjar asked members to get their suggestions to Ms. Hoag by the end of the month.

### 2019 Conflict of Interest Policy and Code of Conduct

Ms. Hoag explained that in April 2005 Borough Council adopted a "Conflict of Interest Policy and Code of Conduct with Regard to HUD Programs". She said elected and appointed officials were to receive a copy of the policy at a regular meeting of their respective council, authority board or commission. She said a copy of the policy was attached to the agenda for review.

## **Upcoming 2019 Meetings:**

Mr. Najjar reviewed the 2019 upcoming meetings. Ms. Hoag asked the members to let her know at their earliest convenience if they could not attend a meeting.

## **Liaison Reports**

MPO/CRPA/COG Transportation – Ms. Meek referred to the handout regarding the PennDOT Connects policy and asked that members RSVP if attending either of the upcoming sessions. She said the MPO would be approaching Borough Council regarding a long-range transportation plan.

Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA) – Ms. Sheader reported that on January 5, 2019 CATA returned to a full-service schedule following the holidays. She said that 15 new buses were coming with the first one arriving this month and the remainder by April 2019.

Penn State Transportation – Mr. Thomas reported for Mr. DeMayo stating that the students returned over the past weekend without incident. He said Transportation Services would be talking with Zagster regarding the expansion of bike services.

PennDOT – No report given.

Borough Planning Commission – Ms. Messner stated there would be a Planning Commission meeting next month. She said topics for discussion would be the Penn State Wastewater Treatment Plant and a three-story apartment building near the Hamilton Shopping Center.

Borough Engineer – No report given.

Sustainability Coordinator – No report given.

Parking Office – Mr. Ward reported that a parking study of the East End was funded for 2019. He said the previous parking study would be reviewed at the next meeting and if there was something members would like to be addressed, let him know as a final report would then be given to Council. Mr. Mose asked if there could be a short-term study to determine if Garner Street could be made into a one-way? Mr. Ward said that was being looked at, but he thought the demand was not necessarily there. He added that if needed, it was still on the table.

State College Police – Nothing to report.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chairman Najjar adjourned the meeting at 1:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Hall  
Administrative Assistant