

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

The State College Borough Transportation Commission (TC) met on Tuesday, October 8, 2019, in Room 304 of the Municipal Building at 243 South Allen Street. Raymond Najjar, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:17 p.m.

**Members Present**

Raymond Najjar, Chair; Richard Garis, Vice-Chair; Rick Gilmore; Paul Jovanis; Mieke Haeck; and Diana Malcom

**Members Absent**

Hugh Mose

**Others Present**

Albert Carlson, PennDOT; Lt. Barrett Smith, State College Police; Rob DeMayo, Penn State University; Deborah Hoag, Director of Public Works; Ray Sassaman, Assistant Borough Engineer; Scott Fitzgerald, Parking Operations Supervisor; P. Rick Ward, Director of Parking; Greg Garthe, Senior Planner; Aaron Fayish, Stahl Sheaffer; and Stacy Hall, Administrative Assistant

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Najjar asked if there were any corrections to the August 13, 2019 minutes. Ms. Hoag said Tom Zilla was listed as being present at that meeting, but he was not there. Mr. Gilmore made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and Ms. Malcom seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

**Public Hour – Hearing of Citizens**

No one from the public wished to speak during the public hour.

**Discussion Items**

2020 Work Plan

Ms. Hoag directed the members to review the 2019 Work Plan attached to the agenda and provide guidance in preparation of the 2020 Work Plan.

- She stated staff was looking for suggestions or other initiatives the Commission would like to add to the Work Plan for next year.
- She noted number seven on the Work Plan had to do with the closure of the 100 block of Allen Street for the pedestrian mall and the application was submitted for that to occur next spring into summer.

TC's comments:

- Ms. Malcom asked why it was marked as low priority and would it be moved up as the time drew closer. Ms. Hoag explained it was listed as low priority as the status of the project was not known at the time and it would be moved up to a higher priority.
- Mr. Najjar pointed out there were various intersections in the Borough identified as more dangerous than others and improvements were made. He stated the entire list of intersections of concern was not addressed and inquired if they were a part of the Work Plan. Ms. Hoag stated those intersections would be addressed under the Pedestrian and Traffic Study Issues of the Work Plan and were also a part of the 2020–2024 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to have intersections reviewed in 2020.
- Mr. Garis asked what the Fraser Centre Traffic Study Mitigation Plan entailed. Ms. Hoag stated it was related to pedestrian fencing and predated the Work Plan. Mr. Fayish noted the mitigation was required for the addition of a right turning lane at College Avenue turning onto Burrowes Street.

- Ms. Malcom stated, this past year, there had been discussions about bikeshare with more electric scooters and bicycles coming to the area and asked if there would be more attention paid to those issues. Ms. Hoag asked Ms. Malcom to look at number 12 of the Work Plan because that would be where those issues would best fit. Ms. Malcom suggested e-bikes and scooters be put in parentheses in that section, so they were not left out.
- Mr. Gilmore asked if number six of the Work Plan was related to e-bikes and scooters as well. He also noted Council was asked to communicate with State Representatives about e-bikes and scooters following traffic codes. Ms. Hoag said administrative staff had been working to track different places in the state and county that had traffic codes for e-bikes, and scooters to come up with a plan for the Borough. She stated she would check on the status of those findings.
- Mr. Gilmore also stated he was aware legislation was pending, and the TC wanted to express this item should be a high priority for our community.
- Mr. Jovanis noted the members had discussed about getting ahead of projects and activities that occurred in the Borough and inquired if there was a place in the plan the TC could get involved with. Ms. Hoag assured the members Council would ask for input from the TC when needed.
- Ms. Malcom suggested the TC review the Work Plan quarterly and review where staff was at on different items.
- Mr. Najjar said that made sense to him because the TC received updates. but was not aware when things would happen.

### 2020 Operating Budget

Ms. Hoag reported the 2020 Operating Budget would be transmitted to Borough Council this month to begin the review and public outreach and input period prior to adoption in December.

- She stated this was the time for the TC members to review and provide input to Council and encouraged the members to review the CIP on the website which would show the prioritized list of projects.

TC's comments:

- Mr. Gilmore asked if after the budget was proposed should the TC take a focused look at the TC related proposals in the budget. Ms. Hoag stated that would be the ideal time.

Mr. Gilmore made a motion for time to be devoted at the next meeting to look at those items and Mr. Garis seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously in favor.

Ms. Hoag said she would send the link to the CIP to members to review prior to the November 5, 2019 meeting.

### 2020 Appointments

Ms. Hoag noted the TC would have openings for appointment in 2020, and if anyone knew of a Borough resident with an interest in or expertise in transportation matters along with a willingness to serve, to please refer them to the Borough website and guide them through the application process.

Mr. Najjar reminded the members a new chair would need assigned as well.

### **Liaison Reports**

MPO/CRPA/COG Transportation – No report given.

Centre Area Transportation Authority – No report given.

Penn State Transportation – Mr. DeMayo stated Penn State was working with the Borough to decide if staying with Zagster or going with another company was the best decision. He noted the upcoming weekend was going to be a busy one even without a home football game. He also noted it was parent's weekend and a lot of fall and sporting events would be happening. He stated, at a football parking meeting held in late September, positive feedback was received from neighborhood representatives.

PennDOT – No report given.

Borough Planning Commission – No report given.

Borough Engineer – Ms. Hoag introduced Ray Sassaman who would be involved with engineering projects moving forward as Amy Kerner no longer worked for the Borough.

Environmental Coordinator – No report given.

Parking Office – Mr. Ward outlined the purpose of the Highlands Parking Pilot program and gave a brief history of how the program came about. He stated this was the first year of implementation, and at the end of the year, staff would be able to see if the program made a difference. He noted data would be presented at the end of this year and the program would sunset at the end of 2020. Mr. Ward reported the State College Area High School moved the football field temporarily behind south field. He noted there was a lighting variance issue along with heavy pedestrian traffic after games. He also reported temporary “No Parking” signs were put up during football games as a deterrent. He noted residents could park on the streets as the signs were just a deterrent to keep too many cars from parking there. Mr. Ward stated a parking supply and demand study was being planned and a report would be given in November to discuss the findings to be presented to the TC in February.

TC’s comments:

- Mr. Najjar read an e-mail he received from a TC member, Mr. Mose, who could not be present at the meeting. Mr. Mose stated he was concerned with the TC’s interest in football-related parking, the Commission not made aware of the situation in the neighborhood west of the high school or offered the opportunity to provide input regarding the Borough’s response. He also stated it would be helpful to learn about the process used to get relief so quickly from the high school football game congestion, and perhaps, there was a lesson to be learned for the other neighborhoods.
- Mr. Najjar asked Mr. Ward if there were problems identified at the high school game. Mr. Ward stated the only problems came from the lighting variance. He noted precautions were taken for the five home games and the “No Parking” signs were put up at 3 p.m. on those days and taken down the morning after the games. Ms. Malcom asked if there was anything the TC members could learn from the situation. Mr. Ward stated everything happened quickly and sometimes decisions needed to be made between meetings and nothing was done specifically to keep the TC out of the decision. He said a good job was done in communicating with the neighborhoods and that helped everything run smoothly.

State College Police – No report given.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Najjar adjourned the meeting at 12:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Hall  
Administrative Assistant