


TROC May 27, 2021 Meeting 5 Minutes





The Transportation Revenue Options Commission (TROC) held its fifth meeting virtually on May 27, 2021. The meeting began promptly at 1:00 P.M. and was conducted via Zoom; it was also accessible through a public link to Zoom.

The session agenda follows:

1. **Meeting Objectives**
2. **Commission Chair's Opening Remarks**
3. **Schedule/Milestone Review (May-June Analyses and Final Report Lookahead)**
4. **Projection Tool Demo**
5. **High-Potential Options Discussion**
6. **Work Group Next Steps**
 - Multimodal Revenue Sources
 - Transit Revenue Sources
 - Mileage-Based User Fees (MBUF)
 - Vehicle Registration Fees
 - Tolling Scenarios
 - Taxing Scenarios
 - Local Solutions
 - PSP Funding
7. **Briefings**
 - MBUF Presentation (Patricia "Trish" Hernden, Ph.D., Executive Director, Eastern Transportation Coalition)
 - Highway Overview (Mike Keiser, P.E., Acting Deputy Secretary for Highway Administration, PennDOT)
8. **Meeting Summary and Public Comments**
9. **Commission Chair's Closing Remarks**
10. **Next Meeting Date: June 10** (since rescheduled to June 14), **1:00 – 3:00**

Meeting Objectives

Session co-facilitator Paul Caulfield opened the meeting and presented the following meeting objectives:

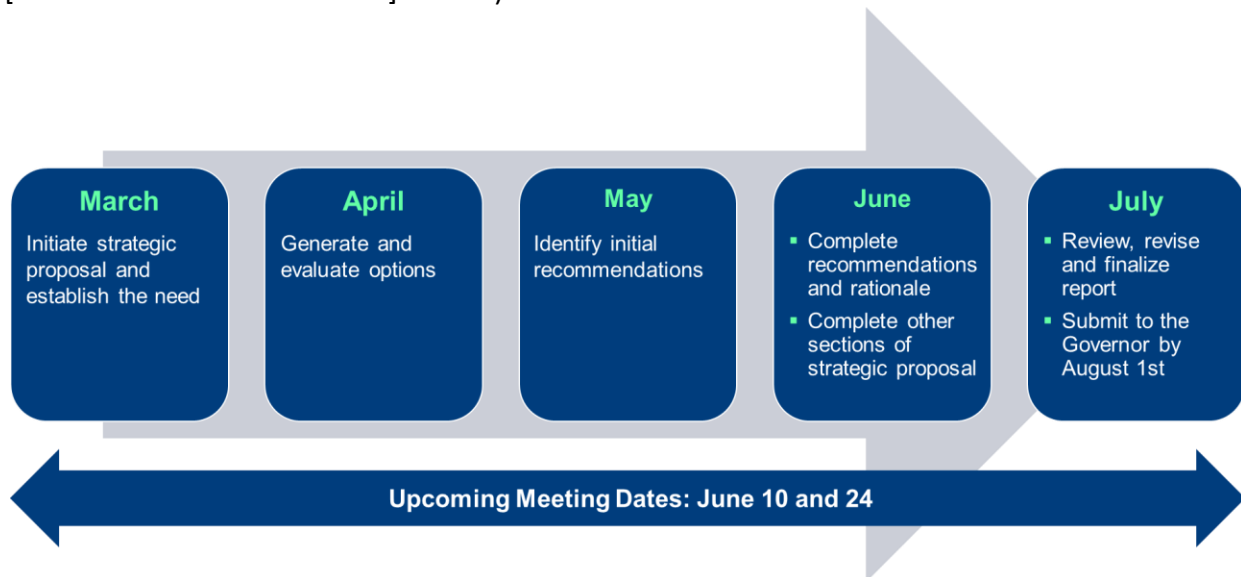
- To kick off the approach for evaluating revenue options scenarios
- To receive an MBUF briefing from a national perspective
- To obtain a more in-depth understanding of the Commonwealth's highway and bridge program

Commission Chair’s Opening Remarks

Commission Chair Gramian thanked Commission members for their work to date. The Chair noted the importance of today’s MBUF and highway and bridge program presentations, emphasizing that this is foundational information prior to developing revenue scenarios. Finally, Chair Gramian emphasized that the future sustainability of our transportation system will depend on Commission members envisioning and leading change in accomplishing the charge of the Executive Order.

Schedule/Milestone Review

Paul briefly reviewed the overall schedule (below), noting that the June meeting dates (June 10 [since rescheduled to June 14] and 24) had been confirmed and invitations would follow.



Projection Tool Demo

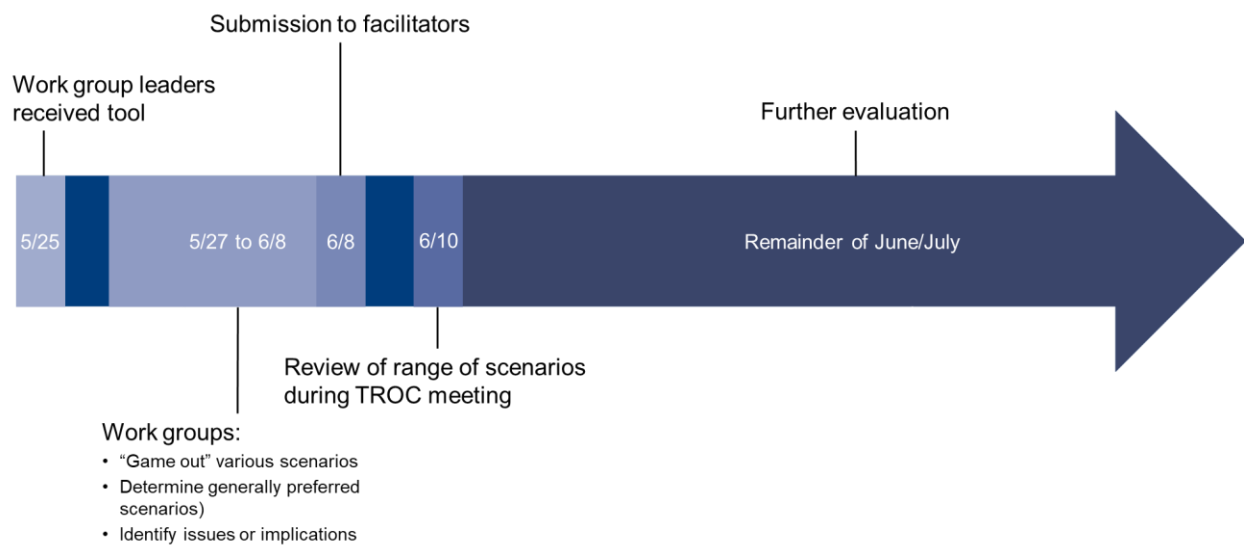
After a brief overview of the approach, Chuck Zimmerman provided a demonstration of the Revenue Options Calculator. The tool allows work groups to quantitatively project the impacts of various revenue options on funding needs. The tool had already been provided to Work Group Leads to allow them to familiarize themselves with its functions, time permitting. It was designed to enable them to “game out” scenarios with their groups. Additional directions for this activity would follow, and the Department’s subject matter experts Chuck Zimmerman and Nathan Reese would avail themselves to the groups for technical support.

High Potential Options Discussion

While this agenda item was not covered in detail, owing to the time dedicated to the review of the tool, a few participants entered suggestions in Mentimeter. These have been recorded separately and will be included in subsequent discussions of the options of the highest potential.

Work Group Next Steps


To put the upcoming activities in perspective, Paul provided an overview of the timetable below.



Briefings

Briefing 1: Patricia “Trish” Hernden, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Eastern Transportation Coalition provided an informative presentation on emerging practices in mileage-based user fees. Trish has worked on this topic intensively for years and offered a perspective on the latest findings from industry research and trial projects in other states. Her complete presentation is available on the website.

Briefing 2: Mike Keiser, P.E., Acting Deputy Secretary for Highway Administration of PennDOT provided a presentation on state-owned highway and bridge assets. Mike provided a perspective on the recent funding levels (2010 – 2022) and the needs of highways, bridges and the associated maintenance. He also discussed the volume of the Annual Program and the outlook for increasing it from \$2.5 billion to \$3.0 billion. Mike’s presentation is embedded in the full session presentation posted on the website.



Meeting Summary and Public Comments

The session concluded with a summary of the session's outcomes and a preview of the next session.

A period for public comment was opened to allow members of the public not otherwise able to submit their input through the public Zoom platform to participate. No additional comments were voiced.

The session concluded with a summary of the session's outcomes and a preview of the next Commission meeting.

A period for public comment was opened to allow members of the public not otherwise able to submit their input through the public Zoom platform to participate by telephone. No additional comments were voiced.

Commission Chair's Closing Remarks

Commission Chair Gramian closed the meeting thanking the other Commission members for their active engagement. She encouraged members to put forth their best thinking as the Commission begins evaluating alternative revenue scenarios. Chair Gramian stressed the importance of a TROC proposal that can be implemented to help ensure Pennsylvania's long-term mobility and access. She extended her best wishes to all for a restful and safe Memorial Day weekend.

The meeting closed at approximately 3:00 P.M.