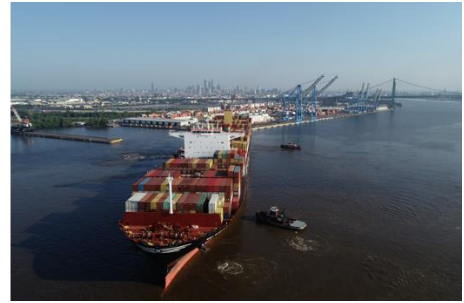# TROC June 24, 2021 Meeting 7 Minutes

The Transportation Revenue Options Commission (TROC) held its seventh meeting virtually on June 24, 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/Milestones**

4. **Review of Draft Funding Proposal Principles**

5. **Work Group Leads' Revenue Projections**
   - Combined Projections
   - Individual Revenue Options (Projections and Responses)
     - Mileage-Based User Fees (MBUF)
     - Tolling
     - Fees
     - Taxing Scenarios
     - PSP Funding
     - Other Options to Consider
     - Local Solutions
   - Open Forum for TROC Members

6. **Briefings**
   - Package Tax/Fee Feasibility (Jennie Granger, Deputy Secretary for Multimodal Transportation)
   - PennDOT Maintenance Funding (Mike Keiser, P.E., Acting Deputy Secretary for Highway Administration, PennDOT)

7. **Meeting Summary and Public Comments**

8. **Commission Chair's Closing Remarks**

9. **Next Meeting Date: July 14, 1:00 – 3:00**

Meeting Objectives

Session co-facilitator Paul Caulfield opened the meeting and presented the following meeting objectives:
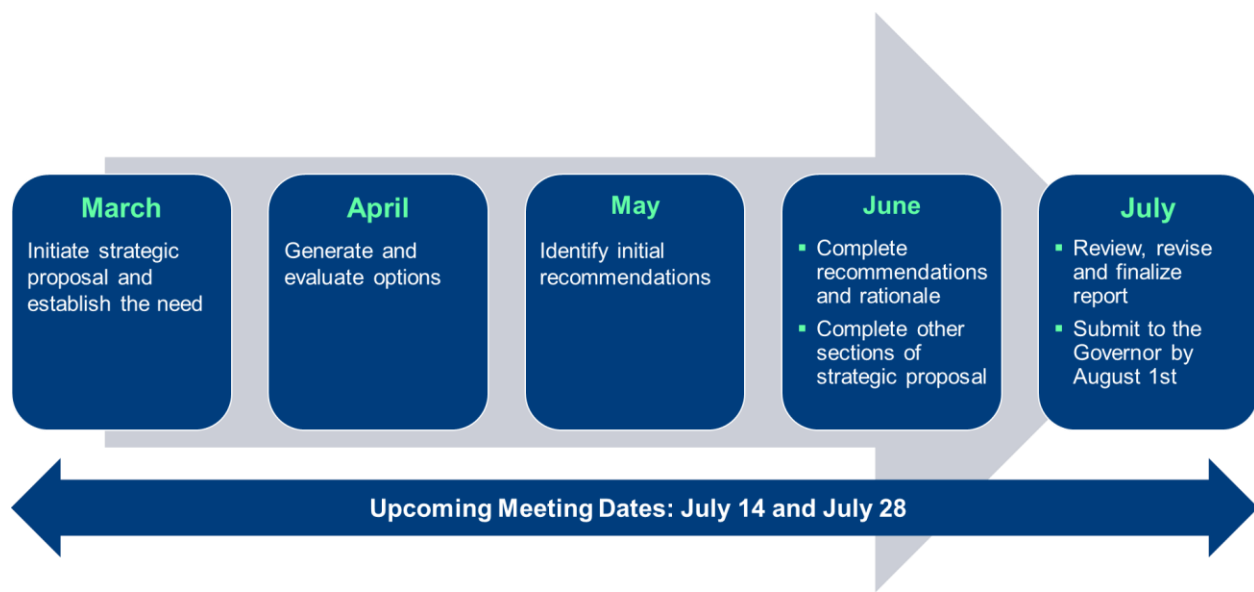
- To review and validate the revenue options developed by work group leads.
- To build consensus on the guiding principles of TROC's strategic funding proposal.
- To gain an understanding of road and bridge maintenance requirements as components of the overall need.
- To explore the potential revenue opportunities presented by the changing package-delivery landscape.

Commission Chair's Opening Remarks

Commission Chair Gramian thanked Commission members for their active participation to date and commended the work group leaders for the extra investment of their time. The Chair also emphasized the importance of both briefings in today's meeting, noting that package delivery fees are worthy of consideration reflecting the growing recognition of beneficiary pays (i.e., non-users also benefit from the transportation system). The Chair asked for a motion on the minutes of the June 14, 2021 meeting, which was moved by Amy Kessler, seconded by Howard Cohen, and approved without objection.

Schedule/Milestone Review

Paul reviewed the overall schedule (below), noting that the July meeting dates (July 14 and 28) had been confirmed and invitations would follow.
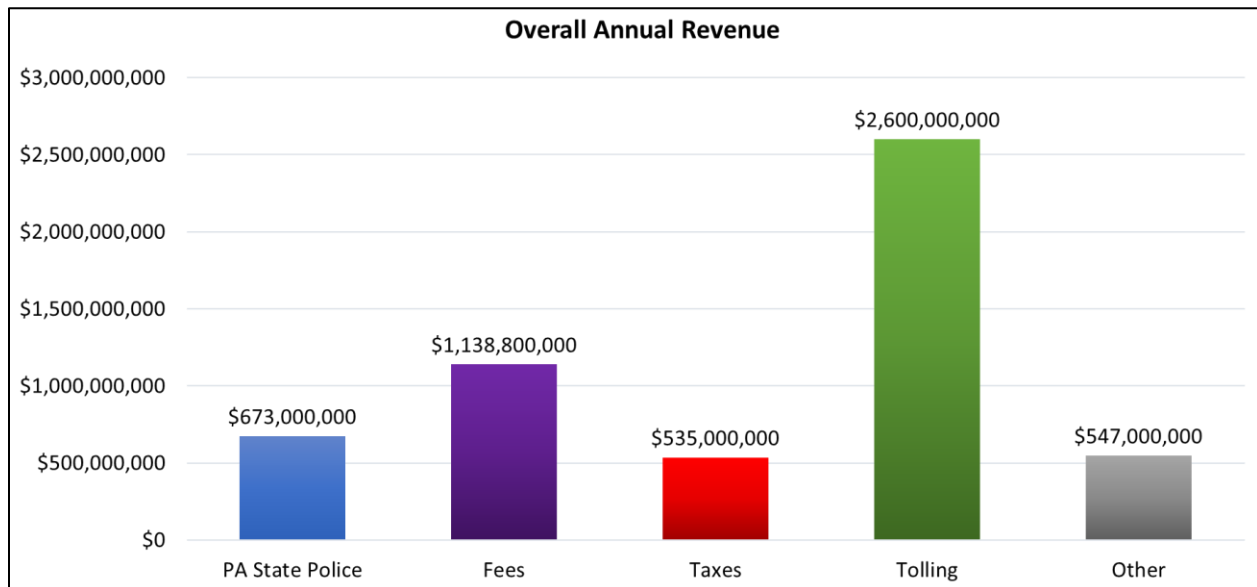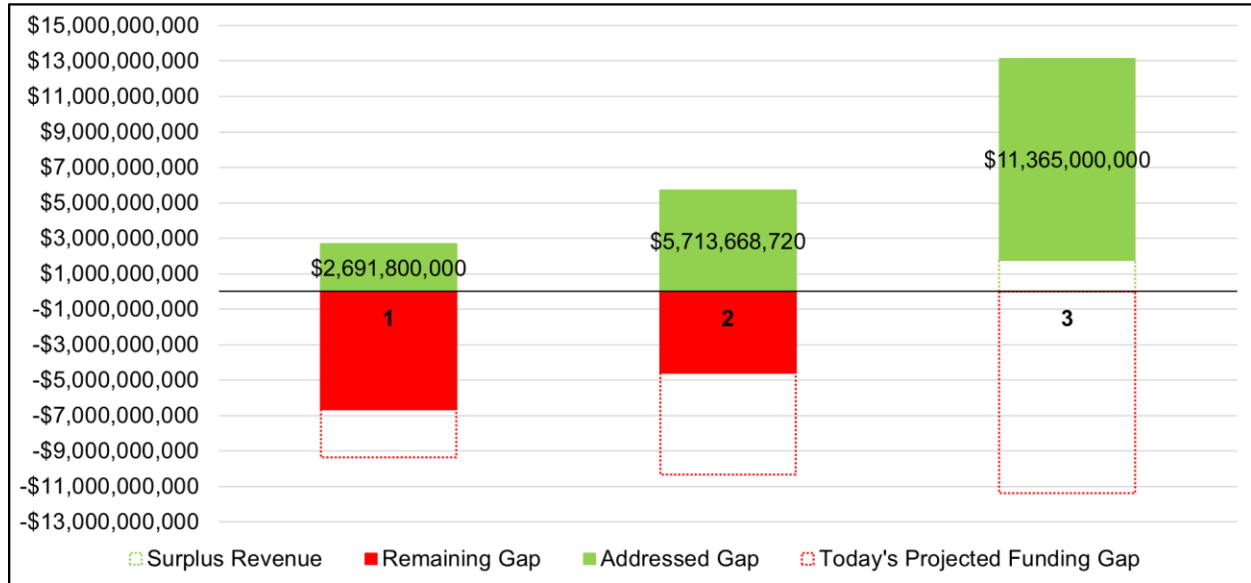
Review of Draft Funding Proposal Principles

The following funding draft proposal principles were presented by co-facilitator Keith Chase for Commission members' review and consideration:

- Equity impacts

- Transportation-user focus

- Broadening and diversifying of revenue base (multiple sources) . . .
 . . . but limiting the use of non-transportation taxation

- Stability (of revenue sources)

- Inflation adjustments

- Flexibility of use across modes (locally and modally)

- Ease of administration

- Short-term feasibility (for Phase 1 and 2 implementation)

- Consideration of other states' experience

Secretary Dan Hassell noted the importance of the equity principle and recommended that there be a framework for evaluating the funding proposal revenue options in terms of equity.

Work Group Leads' Revenue Projections

Paul presented the composite results (graphs below) of work group leads' submissions, noting that the work will continue with further adjustments made based on TROC discussion in the meeting.

Next, each work group lead highlighted their revenue options. The options and the associated revenue estimates are included in the full session presentation posted on the website.

This portion of the agenda concluded with an open forum for TROC members to provide additional input for consideration in further adjustments to the draft funding proposal taking shape.

Briefings

Briefing 1: Jennie Granger, Deputy Secretary for Multimodal Transportation, provided an informative presentation on package tax/fee feasibility. The presentation focused on what a package tax/fee is, jurisdictions currently implementing the fee, and considerations for possible inclusion in the TROC proposal. Jennie's presentation is imbedded in the full session presentation posted on the website.

Briefing 2: Mike Keiser, P.E., Acting Deputy Secretary for Highway Administration provided a presentation on maintenance funding. Mike reviewed a breakdown of major expenses, current annual maintenance unmet needs and best practices and efficiencies for meeting maintenance needs. Mike's presentation is embedded in the full session presentation posted on the website.

Meeting Summary and Public Comments

The session concluded with a brief 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. One member of the public commented as summarized further below with full comments of about two minutes that can be heard at 1:56:38 on the meeting recording linked below:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iDN8-ZYiJxE&t=36s

Stephanie Kane identified herself as with Americans for Toll Free Interstates and expressed her concern and objections regarding tolling. Ms. Kane commented that tolling has not been an effective transportation funding solution in other parts of the country and urged the Commission to consider public response.

Commission Chair's Closing Remarks

In closing, Commission Chair Gramian thanked Jennie Granger and Mike Keiser for their important presentations, emphasizing the challenges of maintaining a vast road and bridge network and the dynamic nature of delivery and distribution in relation to evaluating a package fee option. The Chair closed by underscoring the great need for transportation infrastructure funding and recognizing that there is no shortage of options for the Commission to consider in finalizing its strategic funding proposal. Chair Gramian stated the Commission will rise to the occasion and that Pennsylvanians need and deserve this challenge to be effectively addressed.