

Northeast Association of State Transportation Officials

Minutes

Conference Call

January 18, 2012

The following handouts were e-mailed prior to the meeting to Members:

- Conference Call Agenda (attached)
- Analysis of Member Subsidies (attached)
- Request to form Oversize/Overweight Transport Subcommittee (attached)

Welcome & Roll Call

NASTO President Beverley Swaim-Staley (MD) opened the meeting with a roll call. States with a representative on the call included: CT, DE, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, ON, PA, QE, RI, and VT. A quorum for voting was not established.

Member Subsidy 2012 Annual Meeting

Treasurer Michael Baker (PA) reported that the Board has approved a \$48,000 member subsidy for previous conferences in 2010 and 2011 (member subsidy information attached). Currently, NASTO has approximately \$317,000 cash on hand. Mr. Baker recommended that the Board approve a \$48,000 subsidy for the 2012 conference. President Swaim-Staley indicated that because a quorum was not present on the call to vote on this item, a vote would be taken via email. (Subsequently, this vote has been planned for the February 27 meeting).

Oversize/Overweight Truck Permitting

Glen Rowe (PA) volunteered to lead a subcommittee for best practices sharing regarding oversize/overweight truck permitting. Quebec asked if a Canadian partner was needed for this initiative. President Swaim-Staley indicated that Quebec should be a partner on this subcommittee. Mr. Rowe indicated that all states and provinces should submit the name, email and phone number of their representative. This information can be emailed to Pamela Cusic at pcusic@mdot.state.md.us.

Open Discussion for Possible Additional Topics

President Swaim-Staley opened the discussion for additional topics for the NASTO Conference in June.

- a. Regional Operational Issues – regional operational issues identified by members included the following:
 - Emergency Operational Issues – panel to consist of DE/MD/PA
 - Contracting/Consulting/Outsourcing/Uniformity of Terms

Due to the recent extreme weather events causing challenges to many of the NASTO states, the members agreed that there needs to be discussion on emergency operational issues.

NASTO Vice President James Redeker requested a discussion on contracting and outsourcing for maintenance and snow plowing. Commissioner Redeker indicated that due to budget constraints, CT is examining the costs of contracting and outsourcing maintenance and snow plowing. Executive Director Steve Cripps (OT) indicated that Ontario outsources all of their maintenance.

A recommendation was made to survey the states regarding contracting and outsourcing at the staff level prior to the June meeting. President Swaim-Staley will have staff develop and disseminate the survey.

- b. Reauthorization

Caitlin Rayman (MD) indicated that a full reauthorization update will be given at the upcoming AASHTO meeting at the end of February. Bob Zerillo (NY) was asked to give a summary update regarding Reauthorization. Mr. Zerillo reported that much of Congresses focus to date is on performance measures implementation and the consolidation of categories. The Transit Bill was pushed out and will probably not move until February at the earliest due to funding issues. Action is needed by March 31, but the \$12-14 billion in funding must be identified first.

- c. Tolling

President Swaim-Staley started the discussion on tolling by indicating that MD has implemented Phase I of significant toll increases. On January 1, 2012 tolls were increased on trucks. Phase II of the toll increase plan will be implemented in 2013. She indicated that she would like to have a discussion with the states on tolls.

Director Michael Lewis (RI) indicated that they are researching tolling on 95 at the CT border. He would like discussion regarding tolling on the 95 corridor.

Secretary Richard Davey (MA) recommended discussion on a toll compact. A concern in MA is toll evasion and he would like the discussion to include reciprocity agreements with the states to reduce the loss of revenue.

Secretary Barry Schoch (PA) discussed that they are moving to all electronic tolling on the Turnpike within 5 years. PA introduced legislation that will allow them to pull the registration of toll evaders. Secretary Schoch also recommended discussion on license plate design for electronic tolling.

State by State Roundup

The members participated in a state by state discussion of current items. Each member reported key activities/issues/legislative sessions for their state or province. A State summary is attached for member review only.

Meeting Adjourned.