



## **PenTrans Transportation Infrastructure and Economic Impact Briefing March 3, 2022 Briefing Highlights**

### **Welcome**

Beverly Harper, *PenTrans Co-Chair, President of Portfolio Associates*

- PenTrans is forming an alliance to prioritize transportation funding to advocate for the importance of continuing Act 89 funding levels as well as the need for additional local funding options.
- We're forming an alliance to educate stakeholders and elected officials about the need for these additional investments.

### **State Budget Update & Transportation Highlights**

Representative Matthew D. Bradford, *PA House of Appropriations Chairman*

- With a decade of infrastructure investments ending in Pennsylvania, a shift to long-term infrastructure planning with honest discussion is necessary.
- To allow access to employment and promote economic growth, transit access is critical.
- It is Pennsylvania's obligation to fund mass transit, maintain preexisting transit, and address capacity issues to continue economic growth.

### **Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC) Update**

Mark Compton, *CEO of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission*

- The PTC is eager to make necessary accessibility updates to their extensive system as Act 44 comes to an end.
- As post-pandemic revenue continues to climb, the PTC needs to recoup lost revenue and open-road tolling discussions are needed to improve infrastructure.

### **SEPTA Update**

Leslie Richards, *General Manager of SEPTA*

- Governor Wolf's 2022-23 budget proposal affirms Pennsylvania's commitment to Act 89 funding levels and provides \$450 million in bondable, capital funding for transit statewide.
- The federal infrastructure bill is a five-year program that will provide SEPTA with about \$100 million in additional capital funds each year, enabling the agency to accelerate action on \$4.6 billion in state of good repair need and advance Projects of Significance.
- Additional state and local investment are needed to leverage maximum federal funds and to win competitive federal grants necessary for projects of regional significance.
- SEPTA Board approved the sale of up to \$800 million in revenue bonds to help fund projects of regional significance.



- Legislative action is needed to enable local investment options will leverage additional federal funding to advance projects that drive local and regional priorities.

### **SE Pennsylvania Update**

Barry Seymour, *Executive Director of Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission*

- The federal infrastructure law, or IIJA, has allowed the DVRPC to reinstate plans for critical infrastructure projects with additional funding, representing a 37% increase that includes 10+ new county candidate projects funded, 35+ new bridge candidates funded and \$24 million for bicycle and pedestrian projects.
- House Transportation Committee Chairman Tim Hennessy has introduced a bill that would give Southeastern PA counties a menu of options to raise local funds to help advance priority projects.

This legislation came out of recommendations from the Southeast Mobility Partnership and provides for a number of tools that would provide funding for local projects, or projects completed in partnership with SEPTA, PennDOT or PTC.

### **Recap**

Eric Frary, *Moderator*

- Representative Bradford explained that the governor's budget proposal has two critical items for transportation funding: affirms Pennsylvania's commitment to Act 89 funding levels and provides \$450 million in bondable, capital funding for transit statewide and addresses the diversion of Motor License Funds to the General Fund for the State Police's budget.
- SEPTA is pleased that Act 89 funding is in the Governor's budget proposal and Chairman Hennessey is circulating co-sponsorship memo on local funding.
- Barry Seymour emphasized the importance of local enabling legislation for transportation funding.

### **Closing**

Bert Cossaboon, *PenTrans Board Member*

- An alliance is forming to continue involvement and action to promote infrastructure investment and transportation priorities in the legislative process.
- The alliance will advocate to secure Act 89 investments and funding levels, and to enable local funding options.
- We will be following up with additional information shortly.