

Ohio State Highway Patrol Funding Task Force

Monday, June 16, 2008

10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Henry Guzmán, Director, Ohio Department of Public Safety
Pari Sabety, Director, Office of Budget and Management
Richard A. Levin, Tax Commissioner, Ohio Department of Taxation
Chris Runyan, President, Ohio Contractors Association
Doug Scoles, Executive Director, Ohio MADD
Brian Newbacher, Director, Public Affairs, AAA- East Central
Mary Boneli, Senior V.P., Public Info., Ohio Insurance Institute
Larry A. Davis, President, Ohio Trucking Association
John Leutz, Senior Policy Analyst, County Commissioners
Association of Ohio
Mike Rankin, Registrar, Bureau of Motor Vehicles
Jim Beasley, Director, Ohio Department of Transportation
Richard H. Collins, Superintendent, Ohio State Highway Patrol
Larry Phillips, President, Ohio State Troopers Association
Donald L. Mader, Exec. Dir., American Council of Engineers
Companies of Ohio
Robert Hagan, Representative, Ohio House of Representatives (Staff
designee present)

Minutes Recorder:

Nancy Crespo, Policy Liaison, Ohio Department of Public Safety

Meeting Agenda:

- 1.) Call to Order
- 2.) Approval of June 03, 2008 Minuets
- 3.) Updates From the Previous Task Force Meeting
- 4.) Presentations/Open Discussion
- 5.) Closing Remarks

Call to Order

Director Guzmán asked if there were any questions or revisions to the minutes of June 3, 2008 and gave the task force time to look over the minutes. John Lang gave the roll call. Director Guzmán informed the task force that they were provided requested information from the last meeting and provided time to review the information. Mr. Davis wanted to know why the task force was considering funding increases for the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), the Deputy Registrars, and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV). Director Guzmán informed the task force that ODPS provided three options to look at as guides and the options could be changed at the discretion of the task force.

Approval of June 03, 2008 Minutes

Director Guzmán requested approval of the June 3, 2008 meeting minutes. The meeting minutes were approved.

Presentations/Open Discussion

Director Guzmán stated he and Governor Strickland recognize as the highest priority, the adequate funding of the Ohio State Highway Patrol so they can continue to offer the protection that Ohioans deserve. The challenges facing the Patrol's budget are what brings the task force together and they recognize the importance of the Ohio State Highway Patrol in protecting life and property while promoting traffic safety on our roadways.

Director Guzmán informed the task force that the Department will be providing three recommendations for consideration that may best solidify the financial backbone supporting the Patrol's operations, which are so critical to our mission of protecting Ohio's public. These recommendations were developed with great care considering as much information as possible to be the best, most efficient agency for the citizens while maintaining the excellent level of service provided by the Highway Patrol.

Director Guzmán explained to the task force members that as they go through each scenario, they must carefully consider the weight of the impact before making a decision about which scenario will best serve the people of Ohio. Each scenario contains different elements that are meant to work together to sustain the Highway Patrol while maintaining our guiding principles.

Kathy Ludowese informed the task force that since the language for the additional gas tax revenue is in temporary statute, ODPS did not include it in the updated cash analysis handout. Therefore, the new annual target is \$101,250,000.

Ms. Ludowese gave all three scenario presentations.

Scenario 1: Generates \$105,149,920.32 for the Patrol. There were proposed fee increases for all transactions pertaining to driver licenses, vision screening, vehicle registrations, and late fees. A newly proposed late fee on vehicle registrations was noted to possibly be declining revenue with increased compliance. Commercial trucks pay based on the weight and there is a percentage increase.

Mr. Davis had concern regarding providing increased revenue to the Deputy Registrars. He also felt money should not be given to ODOT since wear and tear on the roads has nothing to do with the task force's objectives.

Scenario 2: Generates \$105,185,951.20 for the Patrol. There were proposed fee increases for all transactions pertaining to vision screening, vehicle registrations, temporary tags, and late fees. Driver licenses are not listed because of possible Real ID fee increases. Commercial truck fees are lower than in scenario one. The task force wanted to know where we stand in line with other states on vehicle registration fees.

Mr. Newbacher stated that as the American Automobile representative he would like to see the vehicle registration for passenger vehicle no higher than bordering states.

Scenario 3: Generates \$104,891,372.63 for the Patrol. There were proposed fee increases for all transactions pertaining to titles, driver licenses, vision screening, vehicle registrations, temporary tags, and late fees. Scenario three has the highest percentage increase for the commercial trucks.

Discussion about auto dealers and title increases came up. John Lang informed the task force members that on a local level, they are attempting to increase title fees. Clerks of Courts have been working on the proposal for a few years. Bernie Quilter, Lucas County Clerk of Courts, informed the task force that the clerks are asking for a \$10 fee increase. If the task force would put in for a \$5.00 fee increase that would take the total fee to \$20.00 making the fee average in terms of bordering states. Mr. Quilter proposed that the task force and the clerks could work together if they were looking to increase the title fee.

Director Guzmán suggested the task force spend time talking about some of the concerns so that they come to an accord on a final recommendation. The task force agreed to work from scenario two and make any changes they agreed upon. A concern was that 50% of the vision screening fee would go to the Deputy Registrars. There was a unanimous agreement that 100% of the vision screening fee should go to the OSHP. After some discussion there was also a vote in favor of having a flat \$20.00 registration increase instead of percentage increase for commercial vehicle registrations.

Director Sabety stated that the task force may consider title fees in a plan to offset the costs of the vehicle registration fees. It was noted by Mr. Quilter that the title fee increase currently requested by the Clerks in HB 307 does not include dealer to dealer transactions.

Closing Remarks

Director Guzmán recapped the highlights of the meeting and noted the three items the task force had come to conclude. The task force would use scenario two and change three items in the scenario. The first change was to make the vision screening \$1.00 and have 100% of the revenue go to the OSHP. The second change was to charge a \$20.00 flat fee for all commercial vehicles. The task force agreed that ODOT would not receive a percentage of the new fee increase for vehicle registrations. The third change was the possible addition of a \$5.00 title increase. Mr. Leutz suggested the task force find out the permissive tax information for bordering states. Director Guzmán assured the task force they would have that information before the next meeting. It was also decided that the task force would reduce the volume of late fees for rationality sake by 10% if there was a \$5.00 increase or reduce the volume by 25% if there was a \$10.00 increase. ODPS support staff will draft a final scenario that encompasses discussion of the task force meeting and provide the updated scenario.