

Written Testimony of PA Turnpike Commissioner Pat Deon

May 22, 2018

Chairman Rafferty, Senator Sabatina, and committee members: I want to start by saying thank you for the opportunity to discuss my nomination to serve another term as Pennsylvania Turnpike Commissioner. I'd also like to express my appreciation to Governor Wolf for his trust in nominating me for another term and to Senators Tomlinson and McIlhinney from Bucks County for your support.

I'd like to mention two timely and critical issues that my fellow commissioners and I are tackling today:

OOIDA Lawsuit

As is the case with any active court case, we cannot comment specifically on this lawsuit. While it is impossible to predict the outcome of any litigation, we do believe we have strong defenses to the claims being made by the plaintiffs. Regarding the Turnpike's Act 44 payments to the commonwealth: I can tell you we made the recent quarterly payment of \$112.5 million as required at the end of April. But we simply cannot predict what impact the litigation may have on future Act 44 payments.

Transportation Funding

Considering the popularity of electronic vehicles — and the emergence of automated vehicles — it's clear that we need a new vision to sustain and finance our ground-transportation infrastructure in Pennsylvania. To that end, SEPTA and the Pennsylvania Turnpike are collaborating with PennDOT and an advisory council of regional stakeholders on a new initiative called the Southeast Partnership for Mobility.

The Southeast Partnership will identify regional mobility challenges and sustainable-funding alternatives to meet current and future ground-transportation needs in the Greater Philadelphia area. The study will explore sustainable funding for day-to-day operations and critical capital repairs and lay the foundation for system expansion to support continued, regional economic growth.

Elected officials, civic leaders, major employers and transportation agencies will advise the study team and provide guidance during the development of the study. A report will be completed in spring 2019 for presentation to the SEPTA Board and Pennsylvania Turnpike Commissioners.

I am proud of the work that is carried out every day by the men and women who work for the Turnpike. Further, I am confident that their efforts are leading the organization towards meeting our mission to operate a superior roadway that serves the commonwealth and the nation in delivering safety and mobility.

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Thank you again for the opportunity to continue serving the Commonwealth and the Turnpike Commission.

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