

Governor's Commission on the Reform of DOT
Minutes
January 18, 2008
2:00 PM
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT

Present: Michael Critelli, Acting Commissioner Emil Frankel, Secretary Robert Genuario, David Egan, Anthony Milano, Commissioner Gina McCarthy, Meredith Reuben, Larry McHugh, James Paggioli, William Sawch.

Absent: Commissioner Anne Gnazzo, Kevin Kelleher

I. Call to Order

Chairman Critelli called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

II. Chairman's Remarks

- Chairman Critelli clarified that the Commission would not be releasing their final report at the meeting. The report distributed at the meeting is a draft for discussion by the Commission members. The final report is scheduled for release at the end of January or the beginning of February.
- The Chairman noted the retirement of DOT Commissioner Ralph Carpenter and thanked him for his tremendous contribution, spirit of cooperation and thoughtful and tireless work on the Commission.
- The Chairman welcomed Acting DOT Commissioner Emil Frankel to the Commission and noted his extensive background in transportation at the national and state level including his previous tenure as Commissioner of the Connecticut DOT.

III. Review of Draft Commission Report

Chairman Critelli led a review and discussion of the Executive Summary and report appendices including the major findings and recommendations of the Commission.

Commission members provided comments to the various recommendations for inclusion in the final report.

Members discussed the concern that the recommendation on the creation of a Citizen's Representative Office not create an additional entity that the agency must report to. Clarification was given that this Office would be internal to DOT. Commission members agreed that this Office must be accompanied by a service level commitment that would allow for timely responses from the Office.

Secretary Genuario noted the importance of simplifying when reforming processes rather than creating additional layers.

Meredith Reuben commented that transparency must be a part of process and continuous improvement.

Acting Commissioner Emil Frankel, in commenting on the recommendation to increase DOT's strategic planning capability, noted the complexity of the question of who is responsibility for transportation strategy due to the numerous entities, including the federal government, who participate in the process.

A discussion of the recommendation to adopt contracting methods new to Connecticut noted that the example given in the "purpose" of the recommendation is only one example of such a method and that DOT must have sufficient people with the necessary skills to analyze and manage these types of methods.

Commissioner McCarthy noted the importance of planning. The members agreed on the importance of planning and that the wording of the recommendation to separate the Bureaus of Highways and Engineering should note the interaction of planning with operations and engineering.

In discussing the recommendation to have a full-time DOT representative in Washington D.C., Commissioner McCarthy provided examples of how the Department of Environmental Protection has dealt with this need. Members agreed on the importance of this recommendation however they felt the wording should not be prescriptive as to how to accomplish the goal to allow the DOT Commissioner to determine the best way to address this need and allow for the flexibility to change the method if the need arises.

It was noted that the long term recommendation to incorporate technology for identifying vehicles involved in moving traffic violations would require legislative authority to pilot the technology.

Larry McHugh congratulated Chairman Critelli, members of the Commission and staff headed by Philip Smith on the report and all their hard work.

Upon completing the review of the Draft Executive Summary Chairman Critelli called for a motion to approve the Draft Report subject to the clarifications and comments discussed at the meeting. Mr. Milano made a motion (2nd McHugh) to approve the report. Voice vote - motion passed.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.