

Annual Report for the Year 2009
Of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Motor Carrier Safety Advisory Committee

In accordance with Act 2001-21 the following is a report of the deliberations and actions of the Commonwealth's Motor Carrier Safety Advisory committee for the year 2009.

In terms of administrative actions, the Committee is chaired by James Runk, PA Motor Truck Association (PMTA). The committee re-appointed its members in 2007 and the membership list is attached. The full committee fulfilled its obligations under its enabling legislation by holding four formal meetings in 2008, and four meetings are to be conducted in 2009. It also should be noted the various subcommittees also communicated by means of informal meetings and telephone conferences.

Several topics were discussed in the past year, and they are to be listed here. The first topic discussed by the committee, and in detail by the education subcommittee, was how to address and relay vital information to the trucking community regarding various highway safety issues. Several suggestions were made regarding this, however, because the committee has little or no funding available, it was decided these issues could be conveyed in other methods of current communication, such as the PMTA's newsletter, and via email and/or website development.

Another topic discussed was the performance of the APRAS system, used by commercial carriers to obtain permitting. This system has several issues regarding performance, and these issues were relayed to the appropriate PennDOT personnel, and action is being taken to fix the system and its malfunctions.

An application request was made by a representative of the committee to PennDOT personnel regarding access to the internal RCRS application. This application is a PennDOT internal application, and cannot be accessed by the public. However, implementation of the new 511 Traveler system will allow the committee to get roadway access information on all 511 roadways. The 511 system is expected to go live in July 2009.

The committee aided in the planning and coordination of a Transportation Awareness Day on April 25, 2009 in Harrisburg, PA. Participants included HACC, Pennsylvania State Police, Public Utility Commission, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association, Pennsylvania Manufactured Housing Association, Pennsylvania Bus Association, Tri-State Truckers Association, South Central Pennsylvania Highway Safety, and American Trucking Associations. Exhibits included safety, regulatory, and compliance information for all types of motor vehicles, from passenger vehicles to oversized loads. Pennsylvania State Police will demonstrate a level 1 vehicle inspection (roadside inspection for commercial vehicles). Visitors asked questions about Hours of Service regulations, vehicle registration, inspection, weight limitations, proper load securement, commercial driver licenses requirements, special hauling permits, and much more. The No Zone trailer demonstrated the blind spot around big trucks. Pennsylvania Department of Transportation representatives were there to demonstrate commercial vehicle inspections and the proper use of child safety seats. Two of the top professional truck drivers in the nation presented highway safety tips with the Share the Road tractor-trailer.

The full Committee continues to review and explore areas in Motor Carrier Safety improvement and address the issues contained in Act 2001-21, the legislation that created this body. The committee believes more emphasis on driver awareness and education on safety initiatives put forth in state and federal legislation needs to be addressed and communicated to the motor carrier industry and other drivers within the Commonwealth.

With this report, it needs to be noted the committee, at various times, has found it difficult to accomplish its goals, due to its lack of funding and have had to rely on donations from various trucking organizations to accomplish it's set tasks. With a small amount of funding, the committee could continue its initiative of increasing awareness of highway safety and commercial motor truck safety to the public, by either a newsletter or even website design.

This concludes our report.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Jim Runk, Chairman

Motor Carrier Safety Advisory Committee