



# Larry Malski Appointed to Surface Transportation Board

Larry Malski, President of the Pennsylvania Northeast Regional Rail Authority, has been appointed to the Surface Transportation Board's (STB) Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council in Washington D.C., for a 3-year term, beginning January 1, 2015

The STB is the federal organization that is charged with regulatory oversight of all forms of land transportation including rail, truck, bus and other forms of land transportation.

The 15 appointed members of the Council consist of senior officials representing large and small shippers, and large and small railroads in the United States. The U.S. Secretary of Transportation also sits on the Council.

The Council provides advice on regulatory, policy, and legislative matters to the STB Chairman, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation, the U.S. Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, and the U.S. House Transportation Infrastructure Committee.

Upon his appointment, Mr. Malski stated, "I am grateful and honored to be appointed to this position where I can offer my 45 years of rail industry experience for the good of railroads, rail shippers and receive-

ers of rail freight across the U.S., especially during this period of growth in the rail industry."

The Pennsylvania Northeast Regional Railroad Authority serves four counties in Northeastern Pennsylvania, including Monroe and Lackawanna Counties.



*PNRRA President Larry Malski, Esquire*

## Great American Clean-Up On The Way

Despite the cold temperatures and snow the area has experienced so far this winter, it's never too early to think about spring cleaning, both in our homes, and along our roadways. You can join your fellow citizens in making the world a cleaner, greener place by

participating in the Great American Clean-Up Pennsylvania which runs from March 1 through May 31, 2015.

"Pick-It-Up PA Day" runs from April 11 through May 4th.

Registering your group's

clean-up effort at [www.gacofpa.org](http://www.gacofpa.org) will provide access to free supplies, such as vests, bags, and gloves.

For more information, contact Anna Fuhr, PennDOT District 4-0 at 570-963-2010.

## 2015 Transportation Performance Report

PennDOT recently released the 2015 Transportation Performance Report for public viewing. The report is available at [www.TalkPA.org](http://www.TalkPA.org). It represents a combined effort of the State Transportation Commission, the State Transportation

Advisory Committee, and the Department to review the performance status of the transportation system, given current financial resources and opportunities for progress or improvement.

"This report shows that additional resources are allowing us to improve the state of our

transportation system, making it safer, and improving mobility," Acting PennDOT Secretary Leslie S. Richards said. "I encourage Pennsylvanians to review the report to see how we're working for them and understand the challenges and opportunities we face."

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## Getting Around in Tucson

By Nancy Snee

On a recent trip to Tucson, Arizona, besides enjoying the 70-degree, blue sky, sunny weather and sightseeing, I picked up on a few transportation-related practices that are different than those we have here in Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties.

Without the cold temperatures, salted roads and the freeze-thaw cycle we have here in the Northeast, I expected the roads in Tucson, and surrounding Pima County, to be as smooth as glass, so I was a little surprised to find that they were not, at least in parts of the city. Although not as beaten up as ours in winter, they were rough in many places, especially on the outskirts of the City.

Turning lanes in the Tucson area are separated from the through traffic by 3-5 feet wide lane markings which I thought was a positive measure, especially when there are 2-3 lanes of through traffic and 2 turning lanes. The separation of the 2 traffic flows made me feel safer.



Also, at some intersections, left-turning traffic gets the left-turn arrow at the end of the signal cycle rather than at the beginning. So, the turning lanes have the green light when the through traffic does. The upside to this is that drivers can turn left if there is no on-coming traffic which allows more vehicles to make it through the light rather than if they were able to turn only when the arrow is green.

One other feature I noticed was that parking meters in the City take credit cards. Referred to as “New Smart Parking Me-

ters”, Tucson has installed 1,050 new smart meters that are solar-powered and accept credit, debit and smart cards in addition to coins. A smart-phone app is also available to pay for parking. All of the old coin-only meters will be gradually replaced with the new smart meters.

Tucson started planning a fixed-gateway electrical streetcar system in 2006 as part of its Regional Transportation Plan. Now completed and operational, the Sun Link provides access to 5 distinct neighborhoods within the City via a 3.9-mile fixed-route that runs on rail tracks and shares the lane with vehicular traffic. We rode the Link, which picks up and drops off riders every ten minutes, to get a good overview of the City and give us an idea of which neighborhoods we would like to explore further at another time. The Sun Link stops at several locations near the University of Arizona campus, providing students a safe and efficient way to get around Tucson.

## Rules of the Road

In a recent press release, Acting Transportation Secretary Leslie S. Richards took the opportunity to make drivers aware of some of the rules and laws which they may not be aware of, and which are meant to keep them, fellow travelers, and PennDOT workers safe.

**Keep Right, Pass Left:** Drivers are supposed to use the left lane for passing only, not as another travel lane;

**Steer Clear Law:** Drivers must slow down and move over for all emergency vehicles, including police, road crews, and tow-truck operators while they are carrying out their duties;

**Headlights On, Wipers On:** Requires that all vehicles should have their headlights on and windshield wipers operating during inclement weather;

**Clear Vehicles of Ice and Snow:** Drivers need to be aware that they should clear all snow and ice from their vehicles before travel. If snow or ice falls from a moving vehicle and strikes another vehicle or pedestrian causing death or serious injury, the operator of the vehicle is subject to a fine of between \$200 and \$1,000 for each offense.

## 2015 Transportation Performance Report Released (Continued from Page 1)

The areas that received a “good and improving” rating are highway safety, travel information, resource sharing, innovation and cost-sharing initiatives.

Most preservation categories, including state bridge, pavement, rail and transit conditions received an “adequate” rating, but are improving due to the additional resources made available by Act 89.

Local bridges and pavement conditions are the only categories that received a “low” rating. However, having only these 2 categories with a low rating is an improvement over the 2013 report, in which capacity enhancements and transit infrastructure received a low rating as well.

While the passage of Act 89 has allowed the state to begin addressing its

transportation challenges, the performance report states that uncertainties about federal funding resources makes it difficult to plan for future improvements because a loss of federal funds would undercut the funding gained through Act 89.

The performance report will be updated every two years.

# 2015 Spring & Summer LTAP Class Schedule

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## **Full Depth Reclamation**

Monday, March 30, 2015  
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Back Mountain Regional EMA  
3593 State Route 118  
Dallas, PA 18612  
(570) 675-0636

## **Principles of Paving**

Thursday, April 9, 2015  
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Carbon County EMA  
1264 Emergency Lane  
Nesquehoning, PA 18240  
Phone: 570-325-3097  
[www.carboncounty.com/emergency](http://www.carboncounty.com/emergency)

## **Asphalt Roads Common Maintenance Problems**

Tuesday, April 14, 2015  
8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
West Penn Township Building  
27 Municipal Road  
New Ringgold, PA 17960  
Phone: (570) 386-4507  
[www.westpenn township.org](http://www.westpenn township.org)

## **Work Zone Traffic Control**

Friday, April 24, 2015  
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Shohola Township Building  
159 Twin Lakes Road  
Shohola, PA 18458  
(570) 559-7394  
[www.shoholatwp.org](http://www.shoholatwp.org)

## **Traffic Sign Inventory Workshop**

Thursday, May 5, 2015  
10:00 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.  
Moscow Borough Building  
123 Van Brunt St.  
Moscow, PA 18444  
Phone: (570) 842-1699  
Website: [www.moscowboro.com](http://www.moscowboro.com)

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Phone: (570) 842-1699

Website: [www.moscowboro.com](http://www.moscowboro.com)

## **Traffic Sign Inventory Workshop**

Thursday, May 5, 2015  
1:00 p.m.- 2:30 p.m.  
Moscow Borough Building  
123 Van Brunt St.  
Moscow, PA 18444  
Phone: (570) 842-1699

Website: [www.moscowboro.com](http://www.moscowboro.com)

## **Traffic Sign Inventory Workshop**

Friday, May 6, 2015  
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.  
Lehighon Borough Building  
1 Constitution Avenue  
Lehighon, PA 18235  
Phone: (610) 377-4002

[www.lehighonborough.com](http://www.lehighonborough.com)

## **Engineering and Traffic Studies**

Wednesday, May 20, 2015  
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
PennDOT District 4-0 Office  
55 Keystone Industrial Park  
Dunmore, PA 18512  
Phone: (570) 963-4052

[www.dot.state.pa.us](http://www.dot.state.pa.us)

## **Equipment and Worker Safety**

Tuesday, June 2, 2015  
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Stroud Township Building  
1211 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Stroudsburg, PA 18360  
(570) 421-5043

[www.township.stroud.pa.us](http://www.township.stroud.pa.us)

## **Chainsaw Safety**

Thursday, June 25, 2015  
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Coolbaugh Township Building  
5520 Municipal Drive  
Tobyhanna, PA 18466

[www.coolbaughtwp.org](http://www.coolbaughtwp.org)

## **Chainsaw Safety**

Friday, June 26, 2015  
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
West Penn Township Building  
27 Municipal Road  
New Ringgold, PA 17960  
Phone: (570) 386-4507

[www.westpenn township.org](http://www.westpenn township.org)

## **Signs and Safety Features for**

### **Bridges and Culverts**

Thursday, July 23, 2015  
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Back Mountain Regional EMA  
1183 State Route 118  
Dallas, PA 18612  
(570) 675-0636

To register for any of the above classes, go to [www.ltap.state.pa.us](http://www.ltap.state.pa.us).

For further information, contact Kate McMahon, NEPA-Alliance at 570-655-5581.



**LACKAWANNA/LUZERNE METROPOLITAN  
PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

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[www.luzernecounty.org/county/  
departments\\_agencies/planning\\_commission/  
lackawannaluzerne-metropolitan-planning-  
organization](http://www.luzernecounty.org/county/departments_agencies/planning_commission/lackawannaluzerne-metropolitan-planning-organization)

**PennDOT District 4-0**

**[www.neparoads.com](http://www.neparoads.com)**



## New Acting Transportation Secretary Leslie S. Richards

Leslie S. Richards, Governor Tom Wolfe's nominee to serve as Transportation Secretary, has an extensive transportation planning background in both the private and public sectors.

Ms. Richards is a graduate of Brown University where she majored in economics and urban studies, and earned a Master's Degree in Regional Planning from the University of Pennsylvania.

Her work in the private sector included a position as a senior project manager at an engineering firm, and as a public involvement specialist at a consulting firm. She has experience managing multi-million dollar infrastructure projects, such as bridge rehabilitation, road repairs, streetscape improvements, trail and park development, environmental assessments, and feasibility studies, as well as writing annual and long-range strategic plans.

She also has extensive experience in facilitating public meetings, and has been recognized in both the public and private

sector for her ability to build consensus in order to find solutions to problems.

As a consultant, she received special recognition for minimizing the negative impacts of construction, detours, and road



*Acting Transportation Secretary Leslie S. Richards*

closures on the local business community.

Her work in the public sector has been focused on transportation and planning issues. She has served on several boards including the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners, where she helped the county restructure its road and bridge division which resulted in increased efficiencies and \$1 million in savings. She also served on the Boards of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, the Greater Valley Forge Transportation Management Association and the Whitemarsh Township Board of Supervisors.

She played an active role in the passage of Act 89, working with state legislators to educate them on the importance of passing the bill, and provided official testimony during legislative hearings.

Ms. Richards is a life-long Pennsylvania resident, and currently resides in Montgomery County with her husband and three children.