
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1003 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY KAUFER, RABB, MILLARD, KORTZ, PICKETT, MULLERY,
READSHAW, BOBACK, TOOHIL, ROTHMAN, FRITZ, JAMES, PEIFER,
BERNSTINE, COOK AND SAYLOR, JUNE 21, 2018

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, JUNE 21, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Department of Transportation to conduct a study of
2 the specifications and materials used in department-approved
3 concrete and asphalt projects.

4 WHEREAS, Providing safe and reliable transportation
5 infrastructure is a core function of the Department of
6 Transportation (PennDOT); and

7 WHEREAS, In fiscal year 2017-2018, the gross allocation of
8 State highway maintenance funds among the 11 PennDOT districts
9 was approximately \$1.34 billion; and

10 WHEREAS, Due to the geography and climate of this
11 Commonwealth, roadways and sidewalks are exposed to a freeze-
12 thaw cycle that can be devastating to those surfaces; and

13 WHEREAS, While PennDOT's efforts in addressing deteriorating
14 transportation infrastructure are notable, far too often short-
15 term remedies are relied upon for dealing with chronic issues;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Prior to Act 89 of 2013, Pennsylvania was notorious
18 for the poor condition of its roadways and bridges; and

1 WHEREAS, While other areas of the country have harsher year-
2 round weather, the freeze-thaw cycle leaves this Commonwealth
3 each year with some of the worst transportation infrastructure;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, The specifications and composition of the materials
6 used in PennDOT-approved asphalt and concrete projects should be
7 similar to that of other regions with similar geography and
8 climate; and

9 WHEREAS, If this assumption is correct, this Commonwealth and
10 like regions should share many of the same issues and
11 experiences when undertaking and carrying out asphalt and
12 concrete projects; therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge PennDOT to
14 conduct a comprehensive study of the specifications and
15 materials used in PennDOT-approved concrete and asphalt
16 projects; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That PennDOT utilize the Master Services Agreement
18 with The Pennsylvania State University in order to provide
19 specialized and technical assistance in conducting the
20 evaluation and study; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That, in furtherance of the study, PennDOT
22 identify, at a minimum, the following:

23 (1) The current specifications for concrete and asphalt
24 that PennDOT has approved. The study shall address whether
25 the specifications align with national standards.

26 (2) The current specifications for concrete and asphalt
27 that are being used by other states or nations with closely
28 comparable geography and climate to that of this
29 Commonwealth.

30 (3) Limitations and concerns that have been identified

1 since fiscal year 2015-2016 in connection with PennDOT
2 specifications and materials used in asphalt and concrete
3 projects, including underlying causes and actions taken to
4 remedy the identified limitations and concerns.

5 (4) Additives used in concrete and asphalt, including
6 slag and fly ash, and the limitations and implications of
7 those additives.

8 (5) Whether PennDOT has altered specifications and
9 materials since fiscal year 2015-2016 in an effort to address
10 previous or ongoing limitations and concerns and, if not, an
11 explanation why the specifications and materials were not
12 changed.

13 (6) The short-term remedial actions which may be taken
14 to prevent concrete or asphalt failure and associated costs.

15 (7) The long-term measures which may be taken to ensure
16 that asphalt and concrete projects will perform without the
17 need for additional remediation.

18 (8) Recommendations on:

19 (i) best practices for PennDOT-approved concrete and
20 asphalt projects; and

21 (ii) modifications to current specifications for
22 concrete and asphalt to increase longevity of PennDOT's
23 concrete and asphalt projects;

24 and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That PennDOT prepare and submit a written report to
26 the House of Representatives within one year of the adoption of
27 this resolution.