

MINUTES OF THE 472nd MEETING OF THE OHIO TURNPIKE COMMISSION

December 10, 2001

Pursuant to the bylaws, the Ohio Turnpike Commission met for a meeting at the Commission's Administration Building at 10:20 a.m. on December 10, 2001, with members of the staff: Gino Zomparelli, Executive Director and Assistant-Secretary Treasurer, Daniel Castrigano, Deputy Executive Director-Chief Engineer, Rob Fleischman, Asst. Chief Engineer, Pat Patton, Government Liaison Officer, Thomas Amato, General Counsel; James Steiner, CFO/Comptroller; Richard Morgan, Director of Information Systems; David Miller, Chief Auditor; Tim Ujvari, Maintenance Engineer; Kerry Ferrier, Safety Engineer; Sharon Isaac, Director of Toll Operations; Kathy Dolbin, Manager, Human Relations; Dick Lash, Director Safety Services; Bill Keaton, Telecommunications Manager and Lauren Dehrmann, Public Affairs Manager.

The Chairman then called the meeting to order and requested the Asst. Secretary-Treasurer to call the roll.

A vote of ayes and nays was taken and all Members present responded to roll call. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Representative Buehrer, Senator Armbruster, Mo
Darwish (for Gordon Proctor); Mr. Dixon, Mr. Strnisha,
Mr. Greenwood and Mrs. Leever
Nays : None

The Chairman advised that Mohamed ("Mo") Darwish was attending today's meeting representing ODOT Director, Gordon Proctor, and the Commission's General Counsel informs me that he is authorized to vote on behalf of Mr. Proctor. Welcome.

The Chairman stated we have a number of guests here today and she would like them to introduce themselves starting with the ladies:

Diane Pring, Tracy Cowley, Executive Office; Heidi Jedel, John Peca, Alan Hirth, Climaco, Lefkowitz; Eric Erickson, Fifth Third Securities;

Frank Lamb, Huntington Bank; Jack Fauster (brother-in-law of Ruth Ann); Katherine Fauster (sister of Ruth Ann); Bill Leever (husband of Ruth Ann); _____, ARCI; Capt. Bob Ferguson, Lt. Tom Derr, OSHP; Allan V. Johnson (retired); Bobby Everhart, URS; Jeff Freese, Brett Bailey, McDonald Investments; Bob Martell, Hardee's Food Systems; Vince Chiarucci, consultant; Dr. Ferris Anthony (former Commission Member); Brian Gallant, Tom Travis, HMS Host; Dawn Pellman (Ruth Ann's daughter); Tony Yacobucci, HNTB; Ken Olup, Dan Sokol, Dick Corp.; Tim DelVecchio, State of Ohio, Steve Long, Floyd Jeffries, Operating Engineers Union; John Petty, Matt Stuczynski, Nat City Investments; Larry Woolum, Ohio Trucking Assoc.; Howard O'Malley, B & T Express, Inc.; Joe Kerola, P I & I Motor Express; John Progin, Falcon Transport; Joe Fyda, Con-way Central; Christine Robinette, Nat City Bank; Bob Arlow (retired); G. Alan Plain (retired).

The Chairman thanked all in attendance and extended a warm welcome.

This is the Commission's 472nd meeting of the Ohio Turnpike Commission. We are meeting here in the Commission's headquarters as provided for in the Commission's Code of Bylaws.

The minutes of the last Commission Meeting of November 5, 2001 have been distributed to the Members for their comments, and I will accept a motion to adopt them without reading.

The minutes were moved for adoption by Mr. Greenwood and seconded by Mr. Strnisha. A vote of ayes and nays was taken and all Members present responded to roll call. The vote was as follows:

Ayes: Mr. Greenwood, Mr. Strnisha, Mr. Dixon, Mr. Darwish, Mrs. Leever.

Nays : None.

The minutes of the November 5th meeting stand as adopted.

The Chairman advised that various reports would be received and the Commission will act on several resolutions, draft copies of which has previously been set to the Members and updated copies have been placed in

the Members' folders. The resolutions will be explained during the appropriate reports.

If there are no further questions or comments at this time, we will proceed with the report of the Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Greenwood.

Greenwood: The following items have been sent to the members since our last meeting on November 5, 2001:

1. Draft of Commission Meeting Minutes of November 5, 2001
2. Traffic Accident Summary Report, October, 2001 *
3. Traffic and Revenue Report, October, 2001
4. Investment Report, October, 2001
5. Financial Statements, October 31, 2001
6. Revenue by Month and Year, October, 2001
7. Various News Releases

* copy included in the Commission Members' folders

Leever: Thank you, Mr. Greenwood. Report on Finance/Budgetary matters, Mr. Steiner? He promised me this morning that this would be good.

Steiner: Good Morning Madame Chairman, Commission Members. Madame Chairman, in spite of the fact that this is your last meeting as Chairman, it is only fitting that I'm able to report that during the month of November we achieved some of the most remarkable traffic records in the history of this outstanding organization. Passenger car traffic during November totaled 3,022,000 vehicles surpassing the prior record established in 1999 by 142,000 cars or 4.9%. Commercial traffic during the month totaled 692,000 vehicles falling short of last year's total by 36,000 vehicles or 4.9%. Total traffic during the month of November totaled 3,713,000 vehicles surpassing the previous record set in 1999 by 94,000 vehicles or 2.6%.

Traffic on November 21, 2001 (Wednesday before Thanksgiving) established new records for the most number of vehicles ever traveling on a single day on the Turnpike when we had 161,399 passenger cars and 188,629 total vehicles traveling. These exceeded the previous records that were set during the summer of 2000 by 2.4% and 0.4% respectively. Also on that same day, vehicles traveling combined 14.1-M miles establishing a new record for the most number of miles ever traveled on a single day exceeding the prior record set on November 28, 1999 by an amazing 1.1-M miles or 8.7%.

On November 25 (Sunday after Thanksgiving) this record was broken again when vehicles traveled a combined 14.3-M miles exceeding the record set just four days earlier by another 228,000 miles or 1.6%. In addition, on November 25th, passenger cars traveled a total of 13.2-M miles established a new record for the most miles traveled by passenger cars on a single day exceeding the record set on November 28, 1999 by an astonishing 1.4-M miles or 11.9%.

Passenger car traffic during the first eleven months of 2001 totaled 34.1-M vehicles surpassing the prior record established last year by 448,000 cars or 1.3%. Commercial traffic during the first eleven months of the year totaled 8.2-M vehicles falling short of the previous record set last year by 389,000 vehicles or 4.5%. Finally, total traffic for the first 11 months of this year totaled 42.3-M vehicles surpassing the previous record set last year by 59,000 vehicles or 0.1%. That completes my report, Madame Chairman, and I'd be happy to respond to any questions.

Leever: There aren't any questions, Mr. Steiner. That was a wonderful report as you told me it would be good and in deed, it couldn't get any better. That is amazing to set those records. We can all give ourselves a pat on the back for accomplishing that. You were the bearer of good news today. Thank you. Onto our Executive Director, Mr. Zomparelli –

Zomparelli: Thank you, Madame Chairman. The first resolution in the packet the Commission Members will find is captioned, “Resolution Expressing Appreciation of Ruth Ann Leever.” I thought we’d take the most important business first this morning. I’d like to read the entire resolution for the record”

“WHEREAS, Ruth Ann Leever was appointed as a member of the Ohio Turnpike Commission by Governor George V. Voinovich on December 23, 1992;

WHEREAS, during her nine-year tenure as a member of the Commission, she was elected Vice-Chairman on February 8, 1993, re-appointed by Governor Voinovich to an additional eight-year term on June 18, 1997, and upon the recommendation and motion of former Chairman Umberto Fedeli, was elected Chairman on February 9, 1998, a position she held until she tendered her resignation effective December 11, 2001;

WHEREAS, Ruth Ann Leever, as the Commission’s first woman to be elected Chairman, has served with distinction as a member of the Commission and has actively contributed to the Commission’s purposes and objectives through her diligent application to the matters coming before the Commission, and the astuteness and knowledge which she has employed in making and expressing judgments with respect to vital areas relating to the maintenance and operation of the Ohio Turnpike;

WHEREAS, as Chairman, Ruth Ann Leever was instrumental in guiding the operations of the Ohio Turnpike Commission into the new millennium and in obtaining the best credit ratings given by Fitch, Standard & Poor's and Moody’s Investment Services to a public toll transportation authority;

WHEREAS, as a Commission Member, Ruth Ann Leever was instrumental in enabling the Ohio Turnpike Commission to diligently continue its current capital improvement program which includes new interchanges, toll plaza and maintenance building renovations, construction of award-winning service plazas and, most notably, the expansion of the Ohio Turnpike from two lanes to three from Toledo to Youngstown, Ohio -- a distance of approximately 160 miles, and the \$51 million dollar replacement of the eastbound and westbound historic Cuyahoga River Bridge structures -- the largest construction contract in the Commission’s third-lane program;

WHEREAS, as Chairman of the Ohio Turnpike Commission, Ruth Ann Leever had the responsibility and fiduciary duty to oversee the approximately \$200 million budget of the Commission; the four “new money” bond issuances totaling \$845 million that provided funds to support the Commission’s \$1.5 billion Capital Improvement Program, and was instrumental in guiding the two “Advance Refunding” bond issuances totaling over \$392 million which saved the Commission more than \$20 million in interest costs;

WHEREAS, Ruth Ann Leever has represented the Ohio Turnpike Commission’s interests with the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association (IBTTA) by attending and participating in annual meetings throughout her tenure;

WHEREAS, Ruth Ann Leever has been one of the premier and distinguished business and civic leaders in the State of Ohio, having admirably served her community and the State of

Ohio in several capacities including: her academic contribution to children when employed as an elementary school teacher, Director of the Defiance County Board of Elections, member of the election board, Chairman of the Defiance Republican County, Board Member of the Ohio Water Development Authority, and booster of Toledo's "Fort to Port Citizen Committee";

WHEREAS, the members and staff of the Commission wish to give formal and public recognition for the long, honorable and exceptionally dedicated and effective service of Ruth Ann Leever as Chairman of this Commission;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED that the Ohio Turnpike Commission hereby acknowledges its gratitude in having the services of Ruth Ann Leever for nine years, and the Commission also considers that the people of the State of Ohio have been fortunate in receiving the unselfish services which she has rendered;

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission extends to Ruth Ann Leever and her family its best wishes for her success and well-being in all matters and activities which she shall undertake in the future; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that the assistant secretary-treasurer be, and hereby he is, directed to send a certified copy of this resolution to Mrs. Ruth Ann Leever."

I would recommend that the Commission move to adopt this resolution to Ruth Ann Leever.

Greenwood: I move we adopt this resolution.

Strnisha: I second.

Zomparelli: I guess I'll take roll if you don't mind. Mr. Greenwood-yes; Mr. Strnisha-yes; Mr. Dixon, yes; Mr. Darwish-yes; I guess you can vote for yourself – Mrs. Leever-yes.

The resolution passes.

Since I have been instructed to give you a certified copy, we have had the pleasure of anticipating that the resolution would be passed and the signature is effective today. On behalf of all the employees of the Commission, I wish to present to you this framed, certified resolution.

Leever: Thank you so much.

Zomparelli: On behalf of the entire staff, and I'm sure Allan Johnson, Alan Plan and Bob Arlow, Dr. Ferris Anthony, former Commission Member, the executive staff as well as all the staff members it is certainly our pleasure to give you that resolution and present you with another gift.

This is something that you and Bill can put up in your new home in Florida. It's a little bit catchier than the resolution.

Leever: Oh my goodness, I looked a lot better there. That is wonderful and that flatters me. I particularly like that it is very flattering.

Greenwood: You look good in brass.

Leever: Oh how wonderful. My goodness, no one will believe this. I am so honored and thank you. (Gino said he will pass it around because the employees did not have a chance to see the plaque.)

Capt. Ferguson, make sure no one leaves with that plaque. May I say a few words? Thank you.

First of all I have to pin on something that the staff saw appropriate for me to wear. I told you the picture looks much better than what this is. Well, first of all, I would certainly like to thank my family for allowing me the time and the freedom to do what I have done for the last several years. They have supported me through the good times and the bad times. They have been there when I needed them. And a special thank you to Gino for organizing this day and making it a very special day for me because he understands how difficult this day is for me.

I leave the Commission in good hands. With guidance from my fellow Commissioners – Tim, Steve and George and Bob Blair when he was here and now Mo. My personal thanks to Senator Armbruster who has supported us and has been willing to step forward and back us on many projects and we all appreciate your dedication, Senator.

It has been my privilege to work with such professional men and women during my tenure on the Commission. When I was

first appointed, Allan Johnson was the Executive Director. That seems like a long time ago, Allan. I remember my first duty was cutting the ribbon at Eden in the pouring rain and the wind. I thought, what am I doing here? Then of course, next came Alan Plain and now Gino Zomparelli. Each one of these gentlemen conducted the business of the Turnpike in his own way. Each way accomplished the task that he set out to do. None of them are alike, but they all had one thing in common – that was to see that the Turnpike was safe, accessible and that it helped with economic development.

Speaking of safety, I would like to thank the Ohio State Highway Patrol for all the work they do – 365 days and nights a year – their job is also one that never ends. For them, each day is a challenge and they never know what they will face before their shift is over. Our Unit #10 is now under the capable hands of Capt. Bob Ferguson. Thank you Captain for your diligence and integrity and please extend my personal thanks to your staff.

Our toll collectors are the people who visibly represent the Turnpike Commission. It is to our credit that these people deal pleasantly with some of the most unpleasant people at times. In all kinds of weather and sometimes in long lanes of traffic, these people every day greet our customers with respect. After some of the tales I have heard, I'm amazed that they can keep a sense of humor and carry on. Their dedication and hard work does not go unnoticed.

Our maintenance crews are simply “the best.” Everyone knows that even during the worst winter weather, you can safely drive the Pike. I want them to know that they deserve to feel very proud of the work they do.

I cannot name all of our staff here and comment individually about each person, suffice to say it has been my privilege to work with you all. Everyone has always been so kind and helpful and will miss stopping by to say Good Morning.

We have accomplished a great many things together and there are many projects yet to accomplish. I have no doubt with Gino's leadership, and Dan and Tom beside him, nothing will be impossible.

I have been very involved with my job. I have taken my responsibilities very seriously. I have enjoyed being a part of this wonderful organization and the experience of serving has made me a better person. I have learned that adversity only motivated me rather than discouraged me. I have learned that there really is a light at the end of the tunnel. I have learned to enjoy success; I have learned the depth of respect and loyalty that only comes when people are bonded together in times of hardships and victories. I have learned that I have been blessed with true friendships that will last a life time. Now, it is time for me to eat supper at 4:00 p.m., play shuffleboard and learn to walk on the beach in flip-flops.

I leave you with my best wishes for continued success and again, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all of your kindnesses. Thank you to all of you. (Thank you Heidi, for the Kleenex.)

Zomparelli: We are not through with our discussion and our appreciation of your Chairmanship. Our two legislative members, I'm sure, would like to have an opportunity to comment. Senator –

Armbruster: I have a laundry list here that I could read you but since Gino did such an appropriate job of it, we would just be talking about the same things. Personally, Ruth Ann, I certainly appreciated the time that I have been on the Turnpike Commission as a Commissioner as a non-voting member, and quite honestly, our relationship has grown over the past several years. The times that you have come not only personally but to functions that I have had but the opportunities that you have taken upon yourself – you could have just as easily stayed in western Ohio and not come to Youngstown or not come to Oversight Committee Meetings. You have certainly taken this job to the highest standard that I have seen as the Chairman or Chairwoman. I appreciate our relationship and wish you all the success in those flip-flops, shuffleboard – I'm sure you'll win –

and Bill, you have got a great womea here. I have certainly enjoyed working with her. I don't think she'll stay in the flip-flops long and the shuffleboard, she'll probably raise your level and probably be chair of the organization that's down there and get involved even though you might be down in Florida. Thank you very much.

Leever: Thank you Senator.

Buehrer: Thank you, Gino. Ruth Ann, I, too, want to add my congratulations. I won't read our accommodation either because it says many of the same things that Gino articulately talked about this morning in terms of your leadership on the Commission and what you have done to coordinate a real growth spurt during the Turnpike in the last decade. You are to be congratulated and I think generally speaking, that the legislators in Columbus have recognized and valued the services you have given, the stability that you brought to this Commission and I salute you for that.

I would be remiss if I didn't say and maybe not everyone attending today knows this, but I'm loosing a constituent today. I don't want to be presumptuous, but I might be losing two votes. That's important – it's an election year. It is worth noting that the side of Ruth Ann that many of you don't see when she comes and sits behind the table and runs this very official meeting is the community involvement – the community leader that not only Ruth Ann but her husband, Bill, has been in Defiance County and certainly northwest Ohio. I remember when I first wanted to run for this seat, people said you need to go see Ruth Ann Leever. I went and saw Ruth Ann, as I recall, we had breakfast at Frisches and she showed me a great deal of kindness and gave some very salient advice that certainly helped me during the days as I pursued my own political career. She has been a great anchor in Defiance County to get northwest Ohio community. I know that although you all will miss her, we will miss her as a resident of the 82nd House District in northwest Ohio. With that, Ruth Ann, I'd like to present you with this commendation from Speaker Householder and well as Minority Leader,

Representative Dean DePiero, and congratulate you on your service. Thank you.

Leever: Thank you very much.

Zomparelli: Madame Chairman, I would like to address you as the Executive Director and on behalf of Allan Johnson and Al Plain, former Executive Directors of the Ohio Turnpike. As an Executive Director in charge of all administrative matters here at the Ohio Turnpike – our 1200 employees – a budget over \$2-M. It means everything to have a Commission Member and a Chairman who is supportive of the Executive Director and key staff as well as all our employees that allows us to do our jobs, make mistakes, improve and grow. I think your efforts have definitely enabled the Turnpike to be the best-run toll authority in the world. We are just not puffing when we say that. We are recognized in the industry as the leaders – our safety records are the best – our ability to manage our projects is the best – our ability to attract key staff because of the type of organization we have had has been the best. The Ohio Turnpike has always been since 1949 a bipartisan commission serving an essential function of the State. We have not missed a step under your leadership as Commission Member, Vice-Chairman and also as the Chairperson. Personally, I thank you for the support that you have given me in recommending along with Alan Plain my appointment as Executive Director. I will continue to serve this Commission the way you expect.

I have also been informed that former Commission Member, Earl Williams, came in late. Would you just stand, Earl?

Williams: When I left the Commission a few months ago, I sent Ruth Ann a personal note and said I thought she was the greatest Chairperson I ever had the opportunity to serve under. I still feel that way and good luck.

Leever: Thank you, Earl.

Zomparelli: I have one final presentation to make to you. Kind of ties in together construction, aggregate and your hobby. It's heavy.

- Leever: They padded me down at the airport on my way here. I can't imagine what they will do when I return.
- Zomparelli: You'll have to buy another suitcase, Bill. The Chairman likes to collect rocks as a hobby so whenever I go out of town somewhere I always bring back a stone or rock. These are from Brazil. (They were suppose to take the price off.)
- Leever: That's funny because whenever I get a gift for my family, I inadvertently leave the price tag on. My sister picks up the gift and that's the first thing she looks for – you left the price tag on again. This is very appropriate. This is so beautiful.
- Zomparelli: We use a lot of aggregate on the Turnpike so that kind of goes hand in hand. It is a matching set.
- Leever: They are beautiful, thank you very much. I'm a very cheap date. When we travel, I pick up a stone. It could be gold for a charm bracelet or whatever, but I pick up stones. Bill is accustomed to this so thank you so much. I will enjoy that very much.
- Zomparelli: At this time, are there any other Commission Members who want to say something?
- Strnisha: Ruth Ann, this is actually a sad and humbling moment because obviously, it's sad to lose you as Chairman. It's been a great joy for a relatively brief tenure – my tenure on the Board. To lose you and humbling in the sense that you are turning it over to us meager “rookies” to hopefully continue on with the great job that you have done. I think your leadership has been a great testament to how this Commission was set up in terms of the way the Turnpike has operated over the years. It's a bipartisan Board. I happen to be the Democratic appointee on this Commission. I think you can tell anybody walking into any of these meetings over the years certainly under your leadership if they didn't know, they couldn't tell who was a Republican or Democrat. There certainly are places for partisanship. I think what this Commission has proven is that this is a place where

service and the dedication to service that the Commission provides to the traveling public is foremost and that is something that we can all agree on and strive for in a very common way. Your leadership has been part of that and much appreciated from my standpoint, I think. I know there are things that I have learned and picked up – insights relative to the Turnpike in just conduct and leadership. I will carry forward both here and in other endeavors. It's been a great joy and this is a sad moment but I have really enjoyed serving with you and look forward to figuring out some way to find you in Florida sometime. Stay in touch, and I've enjoyed the time we worked together in this great organization. Thank you, and I'll miss you.

Leever: Thank you, Steve.

Greenwood: Ruth Ann, I echo what Steve said. It certainly was a pleasant surprise for me when I was appointed to the Commission to get to know you and work with you. Leadership comes in many different ways. Certainly, the standards that you set for me and others set the tone for hopefully how we go forward. I don't like good byes or farewells. If I didn't consider you a friend, I wouldn't be happy for you. On the other hand, I'm not happy about seeing you leave. However, wherever you may go, and wherever you may drive, I want to make sure you have an official retiree parking pass so you can park that "Old Fart" ribbon any where you want to.

Leever: Thank you so much. You think I won't use this?

Greenwood: I know you will.

Zomparelli: I probably should give a chance to Allan Johnson and Alan Plain and Dr. Anthony as a former Commission Member. I'm sure you won't object, Madame Chairman.

Johnson: You caught me off-guard again like last night. I, of course, was Executive Director when Ruth Ann came on to the Commission and until I retired a little more than five years ago, I can only echo everything I have been hearing this morning –

during my time with Ruth Ann, she performed beautifully and obviously continued to do that after I left. All I can say, I echo what has been said and I wish you and your family every success and I, too, plan to see you in Florida.

Plain: I don't have a long list today, Ruth Ann. You have conducted yourself with style and class. You brought it all to the Commission. I am very proud to have served under you. You have done a remarkable job and all I can do is wish you and Bill the very best in Florida and hope that once in a while you come up and see us.

Leever: Thank you, Alan.

Anthony: (Former Commission Member) Thank you, Gino. I sat across from Ruth Ann last night at dinner, and we had a great conversation. At one point I said to her, did you ever think you'd fall in love with a road? The fact is we did – we all fell in love with this road. When I started on the Commission I had no idea what my duties were and what I was suppose to do, but Ruth Ann broke me in, swore me in and under her leadership I was very, very proud to be a member of the Commission. Ruth Ann, wherever you go, I hope you take with you the love and respect of everyone in this room because you truly are a remarkable person. I told Vince, who was sitting next to me, I only wish you could have been the President of our University because you would have been first-class there, too. Best of luck to both of you and I do want your address.

Leever: Oh sure, we have lots of hotels very near by. Thank you very much, I appreciate your kind words.

Zomparelli: Madame Chairman, thank you. There's nothing else we can say. We cannot express words and I'm not going to try. Oh Mr. Dixon—

Dixon: What could I say and I think I've only met you twice. Sometimes first impressions are the most important. When I got the call from you on my cell phone, I must have said who are you and how did you get this number? After you told me who

you were, we talked and you welcomed me and you told me how important this was to you and told me that I would have a fantastic time. Then I found out you were leaving. I thought to myself, why would you take the time to call a new member who you wouldn't have any opportunity to work with and why would you take the time out of your obviously busy schedule to welcome me. That could only be because you love what you're doing and hold this great responsibility in high esteem. I hold you in high esteem and wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Leever: Thank you very much.

Zomparelli: OK, we'll move on to the next item on the agenda. It probably won't be as exciting, but for a lot of our employees, it will be. It is captioned, "Resolution Adopting Budget for the Year 2002 and Providing for Deposits Required under the 1994 Trust Agreement during said Year."

On the second page of the resolution is the accounting of the revenues, expenditures and transfers for the proposed 2002 budget. The Resolved of the resolution reads:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED that the Commission hereby adopts the following as its Annual Budget for the Year 2002 and the Executive Director and CFO/Comptroller are directed to transmit a copy of the budget to the appropriate officials set forth in Section 5537.17(F) and to The Huntington National Bank, Trustee, under the Commission's Trust Agreement as is provided in Section 5.01(a)(iii);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director, in addition to his authority, is hereby authorized to grant, during the 2002 calendar year, a wage increase or wage supplement of up to 3% to those regular, full-time Commission employees, as determined by the Executive Director, who are not members of a collective bargaining unit.

For the record, the total revenues projected for 2002 is \$196,622,000. Total operation, maintenance and Administration is \$ 89,678,500. Bond interest payments is projected at \$39,928,000. Principal payments of \$15,857,000 for total Expenditures of \$145,463,500. In addition, we have itemized the transfers for the Fuel Tax Fund, Service Plaza

Capital Improvement Reserve, Renewal & Replacement Fund, System Projects Fund for a total transfer of \$51,158,500 balancing the budget to \$196,622,000.

Our Chief Financial Officer, Jim Steiner, is here to answer any questions, but I would recommend that the Commission move to adopt this resolution.

Greenwood: Madame Chairman, I move we adopt this resolution.

Leever: Any further questions?

Strnisha: One question, we saw the Preliminary Budget at our last meeting, are there any changes, Jim?

Steiner: It's the same.

Strnisha: Second.

Roll: Mr. Greenwood-yes; Mr. Strnisha-yes; Mr. Darwish-yes; Mr. Dixon-Yes; Mrs. Leever-yes.

The resolution passes adopting the budget for 2002.

Zomparelli: The next draft resolution in your packet is captioned, "Resolution Ratifying Award of Contract for the operation of the Food Concessions including Unit #4 (sit-down, family-style restaurant) at the Commission's Portage and Brady's Leap Travel Center under Contract No. TR-8C."

This is a reminder, at the Commission meeting on February 12th I, as Executive Director, reported that on January 29, the contracts were awarded to the following vendors:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Gross Receipts</u> <u>Bid %</u>	<u>Operator</u>	<u>Concept</u>
1	9.25%	HMS Host	Starbucks
2	9.25%	HMS Host	Travel Mart
3	10.01%	McDonalds Corp.	McDonalds *
5	9.25%	HMS Host	Fossil/Bijoux Turner

The Fossil/Bijoux is being operated currently as “Ohio Marketplace.” We hadn’t yet awarded Unit #4 at the Portage/Brady’s Leap Service Plazas located at MP 197 in Portage County. The General Counsel and Patron Services Mgr., Fred McFall, have been working together with a Mr. Hero’s concept. The Operator is known as Restaurant Developers Corp. They are proposing a \$56,000 guaranteed yearly payment plus 9% of annual gross receipts in excess of \$800,000. That would be for Unit #4 – the larger sit-down area.

The Resolved of the resolution reads:

“RESOLVED that the Commission hereby ratifies the actions taken by the General Counsel and Executive Director relating to the award, negotiation and execution of the contracts with HMS Host for the operation of Units 1, 2 and 5, and McDonald's Corporation for the operation of Unit 3 at the Commission’s Portage and Brady’s Leap Service Plazas; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission hereby ratifies and authorizes the actions taken by the General Counsel and Executive Director relating to the award, negotiation and execution of a contract with Restaurant Developers Corp. for the operation of Unit 4 at the Commission’s Portage and Brady’s Leap Service Plazas.”

All the other units, except Unit #4 as the Commission recalls, are in operation and have been in service. This is a formality to ratify the actions taken and also allow us to contract for Unit #4 operation. We have already sent out the contract that has been signed by myself and approved by General Counsel. I recommend that the Commission move to adopt this resolution.

Leever: Do we have a motion?

Strnisha; I move for approval.

Greenwood: Second. Madame Chairman, I have statement in the form of a question so if you can clarify it for our new members. As I recall, and this situation is reflected in the resolution, we did not receive a bid for Unit #4 and you reported that, came back and we authorized the Executive Director and General Counsel to ascertain if there was any interest in an entity operating that facility. You did receive some interest and reported back. The Board authorized you and General Counsel to negotiate with

them and report your findings back to us which you did. We said go ahead and do it and that's what you are referencing in the last comments that there has been a contract.

Zomparelli: Madame Chairman, Commission Member Greenwood – that's correct. We have been working with a couple different vendors pursuant to the authority given to us by the Board to find parties that would be interested in operating the sit-down. We tried to work with McDonalds Corp. and HMS Host as they were existing operators and see if they were interested. HMS had given the Commission notice that they were interested in Unit #4 but they weren't able to put together a proposal for it. McDonalds Corp. had felt they were interested in Unit #4 for a McDonalds diner concept that they have, but they were not ready to take-on that endeavor. They had opened up the first one in Indiana, and they wanted to get a little bit longer time frame before they were comfortable in bidding.

The Commission was approached by Restaurant Developers Corp. about a full-service Mr. Hero concept along with a chicken concept as well as a breakfast menu. Fred and Dan Castrigano worked with Mr. Wolfe for sometime discussing their bid proposal. We are very comfortable, and General Counsel forwarded the contract to Mr. Wolfe. They have agreed to all the terms as we understand it. They are only looking for bank financing at this point. If I recall properly, the bank they were using for their financing got bought-out or their financing purchased by another bank and they had to go through that process again. They are anxious to get out there. We had hoped to have a signed contract from them for this Commission Meeting, but hopefully we will have one shortly.

Greenwood: I guess my main concern Madame Chair, Mr. Director was that anybody or any business that had an interest in operating this unit has had an opportunity to approach the Commission with a proposal. Nobody has been closed out in the opportunity to bid or to seek the operation.

Zomparelli: That's correct. It was held open for public proposals.

Roll: Mr. Strnisha-yes; Mr. Darwish-yes; Mr. Greenwood-yes; Mr. Dixon-yes; Mrs. Leever-yes.

The resolution is adopted.

Zomparelli: The next resolution also pertains to our service plazas operations. This would be “Resolution Accepting Proposals and authorizing the Executive Director to take further action concerning award of Contract TR-8D.”

The Middle Ridge/Vermilion Valley Service Plazas, located at Milepost 139 in Lorain County are currently under construction. On September 6, the Commission issued a contract requesting proposals for one or more contracts for the operation of the food concessions and retail/gift shops at these locations. The Service Plazas were divided into 6 different units. Four companies presented various proposals for the operations of the aforementioned units at the Ohio Turnpike’s Middle Ridge/Vermilion Valley Service Plazas. Those proposals were open and read on October 17, 2001 as provided in a published notice. On October 17, 2001 the Commission received proposals from the following bidders: HMS Host Corp.; Restaurant Developers Corp.; Dalcon Limited Liability Co., d/b/a Panera Bread Co. and McDonalds Corp.

The Commission’s Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director-Chief Engineer and General Counsel together with other members of the Commission’s staff reviewed the proposals submitted and conducted individual negotiations meeting from October 31-December 3, 2001 with each bidder’s representative.

The Commission has been advised by General Counsel that the proposals conform to the requirements of the statutes and the terms set forth in the legal notice and we are satisfied with the capability of said bidders to perform the obligations pursuant to said bid. We think it is in the best interest of the Commission to delegate to the Executive Director the authority to take action on behalf of the Commission concerning the award of Contracts TR-8D at such time as the Commission’s Executive Director

has completed final negotiations to perform the obligations under the bid and if such action is deemed necessary prior to the next Commission Meeting so that the operation of the food plazas and food concessions and retail/gift shops at the Middle Ridge and Vermilion Valley Service Plazas will be accomplished in the most expedient manner.

There is a bid tab that is attached to the back of the resolution. You can see the bids that were proposed and the concepts. HMS Host Corp. proposed several alternative proposals in Units:

#1 (Starbucks, Manchu Wok/Popeyes) concepts

#2 (TCBY/Great Steak)

#3 (Eat'nPark)

#4 (Travel Mart)

They are proposing to provide these concepts for both the Middle Ridge/Vermilion Valley Service Plazas.

In their second alternative proposal, they proposed:

#1 (Starbucks/Great Steak/Popeyes)

#2 (TCY/Burger King)

#4 (Travel Mart)

Restaurant Developers Corp. has proposed as their first choice: Mr. Hero's (with Freshens Yogurt) and Arabica Coffee Shop in both Middle Ridge and Vermilion Valley. As an alternative and their second choice would be: Unit #2 provide Mr. Hero and Freshens Yogurt concept and in Unit #6 (as a separate) concept: Arabica Coffeehouse.

The third bidder, Dalcon Limited Liability Co. , d/b/a Panera Bread Co. (Covelli Enterprises) proposes a Panera Bread Co. concept in Unit #3 as their first and only choice for both Middle Ridge and Vermilion Valley.

The fourth bidder, McDonald's Corp., proposes a McDonalds fast-food concept for Unit #2 in both Middle Ridge and Vermilion Valley service plazas.

One thing that has been attractive to the Commission is the Eat-N-Park concept that is a new concept for us to consider. We are currently negotiating with Eat-N-Park. They have submitted a proposal and we are preparing a counterproposal. Our Deputy Executive Director and General Counsel has submitted a counterproposal for Eat-N-Park to consider. We expect the service plazas to be complete in May 2002. We would hope that we will begin negotiations and award a contract before the next Commission Meeting which may be in January or February depending upon what's on the agenda.

So as not to wait and allow them to start with their build-out at the earliest possible moment, I am requesting that the Commission give the Executive Director, as we did with the Portage and Brady's Leap contract, authority to award or negotiate for the food concessions and retail/gift shops. I'll read the final Resolved:

"FURTHER RESOLVED that the executive director and general counsel hereby are authorized to execute Contract(s) TR-8D (Units 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6) (Middle Ridge and Vermilion Valley) Service Plazas, with said successful bidder(s) which provide for the terms(s) and provisions the executive director determines to be in the best interests of the Commission, including but not limited to, monetary participation up to \$250,000 per plaza and up to 10% pricing adjustment in Unit #3, and to take any and all action necessary or proper to carry out the terms of said bid and said contract(s); and generally in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Commission's Request for Proposals dated September 6, 2001.

I recommend that the Commission move to adopt this resolution.

Leever; Do we have a motion?

Greenwood: Madame Chairman, I move we adopt the resolution accepting the proposals for TR-8D.

Strnisha; I'll second it, but I have a question. I think we have done this prudently as Commission Member Greenwood pointed out, on

the last set, in terms of delegating authority to the Executive Director and the way that process worked and the feedback we got as Board Members. I think it worked well with the negotiating process as these are different kinds of proposals than obviously construction contracts and judging those. On the other hand I think we have to be always careful when we delegate authority that we are required to see here and I would say ideally and if we do have a meeting set up in January or February ideally we do vote on it and make it official in that respect. I would request that the timing works out obviously that we go forward in that way.

That being said I second the motion. I believe the experience has been good in the past and although we have to be careful on this, I think with this kind of proposal with the need to our customers to try and have something in place, I feel comfortable moving forward and as you have done in the other cases, my request is that the you keep the Commission Members informed as to how the negotiations are going so we have a sense as to how this is coming out – particularly if you are likely to make a decision prior to our next Commission Meeting. I think I made the same point last time we did this. It worked out well. I think we've had experience and I'm comfortable doing it again and try to have the same kind of results.

Zomparelli: Madame Chairman, Commission Member Strnisha, for the record, I will only be limited to negotiations for the four proposals that are submitted. I won't be negotiating with any other. I would come back to the Commission for a decision at that time. All four bidders participated through the bid process.

Strnisha: This is a little bit different because before you were going out – in hand move - were potentially awarding for all the units as opposed to the last time it was just one remaining unit. The facts are a little bit different. Again, I think given the desire to try to be timely and not knowing precisely when the next Commission Meeting will be held, I think it's appropriate. But you have done a good job keeping the Commission Members informed on these things in the past. I trust you'll do that again.

Zomparelli: Thank you.

Dixon: What limitations do you have in these contracts or negotiations?
What are the parameters?

Zomparelli: It's set out in the Request for Proposals (RFP). We have seven years for the fast food and retail units and for the family-sit down restaurant, it's a ten year contract with options to extend.

Leever: Are there any further questions? Please call the roll.

Zomparelli: Mr. Greenwood-yes; Mr. Strnisha-yes; Mr. Dixon-yes; Mr. Darwish-yes; Mrs. Leever-yes.

The resolution accepting the proposals and authorizing the Executive Director to take further action concerning award of Contract TR-8D is adopted.

I had one other thing to show you relating to this matter. Sometimes, it's good to take a patron input on service plazas – Umberto Fedeli (former Chairman) arrived at 11:20 a.m.

Fedeli: I'm going to miss you. No press today, right? You guys are going to miss an awfully nice lady. This is a lady who is not only bright as hell, she is one of the most kind and loyal people in the whole world. I enjoyed working with her for 5-1/2 to 6 years. We are still friends.

Leever: I appreciate you coming today. He started all of this and he said we're going to raise the tolls; we are going to build three lanes; we are going to build "new" service plazas. I standing there and saying, uh huh, uh huh ... and the next thing you know Umberto stepped down and when I became Chairman someone asked me, "What is your agenda going to be?" I said I'll follow in his footsteps. I have tried very hard to do that, Umberto, and to carry through with your plan. So, thank you so much.

When I said I had big shoes to follow – now you know what I meant. These are marvelous – thank you for your kindness.

Zomparelli: Madame Chairman, I am proud to report that the employees did an excellent job for the victims of the families of the Port Authority of New York/New Jersey. Here is a copy of a check that we are sending to the World Trade Center Port Authority Memorial Fund. We raised \$14,740.77. That was just a simple program put together by the employees and we rallied behind our colleagues in New York. Our goal was only \$10,000 and we surpassed that by almost 50%.

Leever: That's wonderful. I thought at first that check was for me.

Zomparelli: We also received from the International Union of Operating Engineers their 2002 calendar. They wanted us to pay special attention that the month of March contains a picture depicting the setting of the bridge beams on the Ohio Turnpike's Cuyahoga River Bridge and its 1,000 ton crane. This is part of the National Engineering/Trumbull Corp. joint venture project – a nice little memento to our bridge project. I'll pass that around. I'd like to thank the International Union of Operating Engineers.

I don't think I have any other further report, that concludes my report, Madame Chairman.

Leever: Thank you. Now, we'll have a report from our Deputy Executive Director, Mr. Castrigano.

Castrigano: Thank you, Madame Chair, Commission Members. My Construction Report is relatively brief. This month we have wound down our construction projects for the winter. We have reached the 80% mark on the third lane completion. On November 12th bright and early in the morning, on our holiday (Veterans Day) demolition began of the existing eastbound Cuyahoga River Bridge structure. Two spans were brought down by explosives. At the conclusion of my report, I have a short video tape.

I am also pleased to announce that on December 3, 2001 a ribbon cutting ceremony was held at our S.R. 21/I-77 interchange which is now open and completed. You missed a good one – it was about 60 degrees and sunny. That was the first time we had good weather in a long time.

Our toll plaza projects' rehabilitations continue. On December 5th, the toll operations Dept. gained occupancy to Exit 34 utility building and on November 27th we took occupancy to Exit 232 which leaves only plaza left under construction for this season.

As Mr. Zomparelli stated, work continues at the Middle Ridge/Vermilion Valley Service Plazas with anticipated completion date of May 2002.

(Short one-minute video tape shown depicting the inclosion of the Cuyahoga River Bridge. If you closely in the lower right-hand portion of the screen, you'll see a local resident that managed to breach security on that day.) Did you see the deer run by? The deer made it, it jumped through the truss, came out the other side. He made it. This is just another view of the explosion.

We took two more spans down on the 12th. After the first of the year towards January, I expect a much more spectacular display as they bring down the rest of the bridge. We'll make sure we give notice to everyone ahead of time.

That mess is cleaned up and the Cuyahoga Valley Railroad is moving again and we're continuing on that structure.

That completes my construction report although I, too, have a gift for you. It a fulfillment of a promise I made this summer. Earlier this summer Mr. Zomparelli had a meeting of our Customer Advisory Group. We rented a bus and we took them on a tour of the Turnpike. I was appointed as Narrator for that trip. On the return trip, we came through the Cuyahoga River Valley, I made reference to the Cuyahoga shale outcropping which a fairly rare material. Ruth said, "stop the bus – I have to get some of that." Well, Ruth I didn't forget. We sent Danon

Hopkins, our landscape coordinator, out to get a nice piece of Cuyahoga shale with some fossils in it and also a card explaining the material. It's my pleasure and privilege working with you. We'll miss you.

Leever: They wouldn't stop the bus, though. I will treasure this. You'll have to come to Florida to see my rocks. Thank you very much.

Castrigano: I'd also like to report on the proposed revisions to the Commission's Long Combination Vehicle (LCV) and Over-Dimensional Fee Structure. As the Commission will recall, at our July meeting, I reported on proposed increases to our fee structure and also equipment requirements for the LCV and over-dimensional programs. This process obviously was begun prior to September 11th and in light of the September 11th events and the economic downturn that has taken place since then, I have revised proposals for presentation.

The Commission's staff met in three public meetings across the state on October 15th (Elyria); November 2 (Toledo) and November 14 (Youngstown). We met with approximately 40 representatives of the trucking industry and have received written and verbal comments. I believe the written comments were forwarded to the Commission last month. We also met with representatives from the Ohio Trucking Association. Enclosed in your folders are the final draft provisions along with executive summaries on the programs which delineate the current provisions along with our original draft provisions and the final revised provisions.

I'll just hit the highlights. Most of the comments we received from the participants in the program related to the fee increases taking into consideration the state of the economy. The final revised provisions indicate that we will not incorporate any increases to fee structures until January 1, 2003 at which time we will step in a Registration Fee for the Doubles Program beginning at \$150 per year increasing \$150 up to \$600 maximum. (You may recall that the initial proposal was \$1,200

for those vehicles.) Also, we'll step in the proposed Trip Fee from \$10 to \$12 increasing \$.50 per year over the 4-year period.

Another aspect of the provisions was the Over-Dimensional and explosive permit fee structure which was originally going to be placed in effect on January 1, also. We are delaying implementation of this structure until July 1, 2002.

Madame Chair, Larry Woolum from the Ohio Trucking Association who helped us through this process. I believe Larry would like to say a few words on the proposals.

Woolum: Madame Chairman, thank you for this opportunity. I'm Larry Woolum, Director of the Regulatory Affairs Dept. for the Ohio Trucking Assoc. We represent about 1,000 members, many of which are members of the Long Combination Vehicle Program here on the Ohio Turnpike. I would like to point out and express our appreciation to Gino, Dan, Tom and Kerry Ferrier for their efforts in this process. It was very laborious negotiations so to speak, and they listened to us and we appreciated it. The trucking industry remains ultra sensitive to fee and toll increases, but we really appreciate the process that was afforded to us. It gave us an opportunity to sit down and talk about the issues, our needs. We look forward to this in the future and we stand ready at any time to sit down and assist the Turnpike in continuing their efforts to make this highway the safest, most effective, most efficient and affordable, economical. We stand ready to work on any project that you have to attract commercial vehicles to the Turnpike. We want to wish you the best, good health on your new phase of your life. I believe that some of the other members here who want to share their personal appreciations.

Castrigano: Madame Chair, a representative from Falcon Trucking would also like to make a few comments.

Prugin: I'm hear from Falcon Transport and have also been asked to represent Daimler-Chrysler Corp. at this meeting. Through the public hearing process, we were allowed to express our concerns and problems with the proposed increase in licensing

fees regarding the doubles operation. I'm sure you have seen Falcon on the Turnpike. I'm hear to thank you for hearing us and more so in recognizing our plight by delaying any increase. Thank you.

Castrigano: Thank you, John. Madame Chair – that completes my report.

Leever: Thank you, Mr. Castrigano. We will now have a report from our Human Resources Mgr.

Zomparelli: Madame Chairman, I have asked Kathleen Dolbin, our HR Manager to make a comment about how the economy is affecting the Turnpike. I'm putting her on the spot, because I didn't tell her.

Dolbin: Madame Chair, Commission Members, I just wanted to let you see what we have been experiencing the last few days in our HR Dept. This is just one of about 14 bits of mail that we have been collecting – applications for various toll collection positions that we have on the Turnpike. We feel a little bit like Santa Claus by opening all these requests from individuals who are interested in becoming toll collectors for the Turnpike. It tells you a lot about what the current economic situation is like as well as individuals that are interesting in working for the Commission which I think speaks volumes as well. So the girls are very busy opening mail, sending applications. I'm sure we'll get a very huge response. We'll have to screen those applications and look for some very qualified people.

Zomparelli: Do we have any idea of how many – 1,000?

Dolbin: Usually we receive up to 1,000 applications but currently we are receiving up to 4 times as many.

Dixon: So you'll make a decision by Christmas?

Dolbin: Probably by January.

Greenwood: How many positions are we looking to fill?

Dolbin: We have two part-time toll collector positions and 4-6 full time positions.

Zomparelli: Thank you Mrs. Dolbin. We think it's important for the Commission and the public to realize that we are not only providing the essential service, but also provide good jobs. (There's a helicopter landing from the OSHP in the back.

It's just not easy and we are under union negotiations right now. I'm sure there will be a request later to talk about in Executive Session regarding collective bargaining negotiations.

So just that the public has an awareness of the jobs here on the Turnpike and the attractiveness it is to work for the Ohio Turnpike Commission.

Leever: Is there a report from our Manager, Public Affairs?

Zomparelli: I asked Lauren to talk about the Safety Days that we have had since the November meeting.

Dehrmann: We had a series of "Safely Drive the Pike" Days before the Thanksgiving holiday. We held them at a variety of service plazas on November 14, 15 and 16. We had a variety of vendors as well, educational information distributed, local fire and EMS crews who were on hand to distribute materials. There was something for everyone to make them a little more aware of the increase of traffic during the holiday season and to use increased caution. It was very successful and again, we will do it again in the future.

Zomparelli: The OSHP also participated in this program to educate the public on safety awareness as well as the new law about pulling over or moving over for stopped safety vehicles whether they are highway, ambulance or tow trucks. We seem to be driving too fast these days.

Leever: I would like to take this moment to read a letter from Robert Blair, Ohio Department of Transportation, Deputy Director:

“Dear Gino,

As you know I have accepted a new position with the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family services and the Director will need to appoint someone to represent him on the Ohio Turnpike Commission for the December meeting.

It has been my pleasure to work with you and the other Commission Members for the last several years and I will miss working with the people whom I have come to know and respect. The Turnpike is an excellent organization which provides a wonderful service to travelers within this state. You are to be commended on your efforts to finish the capital improvement projects such as the new plazas and the third lane additions while maintaining efficient operations. I also would like to thank you for helping to forge a strong relationship with ODOT.

Once I get settled into my new position I will send you my address, however, do not hesitate to call if there is something you need.

Best Personal Regards,

Bob Blair

Leever: Mr. Darwish, would please pass on to Mr. Blair our congratulations on the acceptance of his new position? Thank you.

Do we have a report from our financial advisor?

Erickson: No report this morning, Madame Chair.

Leever: Our trustee?

Lamb: Madame Chair, Commission Members, while I break with the custom of declining to offer a formal report, this is my last chance to give you one. What I'd like after saying month after month, "No report, Madame Chairman" does mean something. It is significant. It means that a lot of work is done behind the scenes, very efficiently and very quietly. For instance, Mr. Steiner's staff has arranged to wire transfer nearly \$4.6-M to the bank along with investment instructions and we will park it into eleven separate accounts, execute all the investment instructions, exchange transactional information a day or two from now. That's probably first and foremost. Also during the year, the Commission has to provide a financial condition resolution, a preliminary budget resolution, annual budget

resolution, a schedule of insurance policies, submission of your annual audit, arbitrage rebate calculations. It goes on and is not very exciting stuff – not much to report on, but it has been my experience as the Commission’s trustee that the Commission has always handled its obligations under the Master Indenture in an exemplary fashion and coming from a Trustee, that’s meant to be a huge compliment to you, Mr. Zomparelli, Mr. Steiner and other members of the staff that contribute to the compliance matters under the bond documents.

That concludes my report, we wish you well.

Leever: Thank you very much, Frank. Now a report from Capt. Ferguson, OSHP?

Ferguson: Good Morning Madame Chairman, Members of the Commission - I had hoped on your last meeting that I would not have to report on any fatal crashes – you know how I hate to do that. Unfortunately, we did investigate one fatal crash which occurred on November 13th in Portage County, MP 2001 involving a pedestrian and two passenger cars.

It was a very unusual crash. A 54-year old semi driver from New Jersey was traveling westbound and stopped at an emergency pull-off area along the north berm. We then walked across the three travel lanes to the center wall area where he met with another company driver who had stopped adjacent to him on the eastbound road. Then while attempting to cross back to the north berm, the first man was struck by two passenger vehicles and was killed. There were no other serious injuries which occurred in that crash.

As Director Zomparelli reported, the Hiram and Milan Post participated with the Ohio Turnpike Commission personnel in the “Drive the Pike Safely” campaign on November 14-16 at six of the new service plazas in their areas. This event gave our officers an opportunity to interact with motorists traveling on the Turnpike and promote driving safety. It also gave us an opportunity to expand our community relations contacts and we will continue to participate in future details.

On a happier note, for crashes the State of Ohio experienced its safest Thanksgiving holiday period in the past decade. There were only 8 fatalities occurring in 7 fatal crashes on Ohio's roadways. That was compared to 13 people killed in 2000 which was also a record. The strong presence of Turnpike Post troopers resulted in no fatal crashes and very few crashes total occurring on the Ohio Turnpike during that five-day holiday period.

The Swanton Post had a significant criminal Patrol seizure on December 5 at MP 61. Trooper Jeff Dickens stopped a car from Indiana for speeding and registration violation and after noting several indicators of suspicion while interacting with the driver and passenger located and seized over \$95,000 of drug money in the trunk of the car and also a small amount of marijuana seized.

That concludes my report. Ruth Ann, we have a small presentation of our appreciation to give you. Major James Walker, OSHP Operations Commander, from our general headquarters in Columbus just arrived in the helicopter. He is here now.

Walker: Good Morning. It's pleasure to be here. The Superintendent couldn't be here this morning, he has to attend a banquet for our troopers and their wives in Columbus, but I was coming here anyway for the invitation and since I'm up here, I have this plaque and I was checking on it to make sure it arrived here. It is a plaque presented to Ruth Ann for her dedicated service to highway safety and more importantly to the OSHP – she has been a great ally for the Patrol and we're very proud to have her as a friend. With deep regret, we hate to see her leave. What I have here presented to Ruth Ann Leever of the Ohio Turnpike Commission. "In appreciation of her professional association, cooperation and friendship with the OSHP serving as Chairman of the Ohio Turnpike Commission, she has worked closely with the Patrol to preserve the safety and wellbeing of the citizens of Ohio. Her contributions to traffic safety and support of the

Division will long be remembered. Signed: Colonel Kenneth L. Morckel, Superintendent of the OSHP dated 12/10/01.

Leever: This is beautiful. I am very proud of this, and it is very special to me. Thank you very much, Captain.

Goodness, what have you got for me, Tony? I'm sorry I'll be more professional. Our general consultant, Tony Yacobucci.

Yacobucci: Thank you Madame Chair, Commission Members. We have completed the Annual Report and the copies were sent to your office last week. That's really I have to report, but I'd like to say on behalf of HNTB we wish you and your family the very best. It's been a pleasure working with you. You are what everyone inspires to be. Thank you very much.

Leever: Last but not least, our General Counsel.

Amato: Madame Chair, I have a very brief report today. As you know, I will miss you dearly. However, my right shin will not miss you so much. It might have a chance to heal. Seriously, we will miss you dearly. You have been there for me when I needed it, and I won't forget you. Thank you.

The Commission's negotiating team has concluded two bargaining sessions with the incumbent union. At this time I'd like to request an executive session -- a very brief executive session, in order to discuss our progress and where we are going from this point forward.

Leever: Before we do that Mr. Amato, I have notified the Commission that I am resigning as a member or this is all for naught. I will now hold an election of officers conducted by nomination and voting and confirmed by a resolution so that action will appear in the Commission's Journal.

I would like to begin by nominating Tim Greenwood for the office of Chairman. Is there a second?

Strnisha: Second.

Leever: Are there any other nominations? There being none, I declare the nominations closed.

Roll: Mr. Greenwood-yes; Mr. Strnisha-yes; Mr. Dixon-yes; Mr. Darwish (abstain); Mrs. Leever-yes.

Zomparelli: Congratulations on your retirement as a the Chairman of the Commission, Mrs. Leever. I'm not going to kiss you Tim, but congratulations to our new Chairman, Tim Greenwood.

Mr. Greenwood you now represent the 7th Chairman of the Commission following: Mr. Shocknessy, Mr. Teagarden, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Brennan, Mr. Fedeli and Mrs. Leever. You're lucky #7. Congratulations.

Leever: Mr. Greenwood has now been elected, and I will turn the meeting over to our new Chairman to conduct the remainder of the meeting.

Greenwood: Since I have been elected Chairman, I think the office of Secretary-Treasurer is open. I'd like to accept the nominations for the office of Secretary-Treasurer and hold an election for that office by voting and confirming by resolution so that we can have it appear in the Commission's Journal. So I'll entertain a motion for Secretary-Treasurer.

Dixon: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to nominate Stephen Strnisha for the office of Secretary-Treasurer.

Greenwood: Is there a second?

Leever: I will.

Roll: Mr. Dixon-yes; Mrs. Leever-yes; Mr. Darwish-yes; Mr. Greenwood-yes; Mr. Strnisha-yes.

Zomparelli: Congratulations, Mr. Strnisha has been elected as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Commission. Our General Counsel has

prepared a draft resolution. I'll ask General Counsel to present that to the Commission.

Amato: The resolution confirming the election of Chairperson and Secretary-Treasurer reads as follows:

“RESOLVED that the election of **TIM GREENWOOD**, as chairperson of the Ohio Turnpike Commission and **STEPHEN J. STRNISHA**, as Secretary-Treasurer of the Ohio Turnpike Commission, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 5537.02 (C) and Article I of the Commission's Code of Bylaws dated February 28, 1996, to serve until the next election which shall be held at the first meeting of the Commission held after the 30th day of June, 2003 or until their respective successors are elected and qualified, or until such officers individually shall cease to be members of the Ohio Turnpike Commission, hereby is confirmed as having taken place at this meeting in accordance with law and the Commission's Code of Bylaws and the assistant secretary-treasurer is directed to enter this resolution in the journal of the Commission as a record thereof.

Greenwood: I'll accept a motion to adopt the resolution.

Leever: I'll move for approval.

Greenwood: I'll need a second.

Dixon: Second.

Roll: Mr. Strnisha-yes; Mr. Dixon-yes; Mr. Darwish-yes; Mrs. Leever-yes; Mr. Greenwood-yes.

The resolution is adopted confirming the election of Chairperson and Secretary-Treasurer. That concludes the election of officers.

Greenwood: There is a request on the table from General Counsel to go into executive session. We will accept a motion to do but before so I would like to make a recommendation that in deference to our outgoing Chairman whom we love and respect, we'll have a very short session, but I've got a suspicion that there are a lot people here who would like to give you hugs and maybe have some pictures taken. We will do that before we go into executive session. That way you can have as much time for that as possible because when we finish with executive session we have nothing further on the agenda. So I would like to go into executive session but allow sufficient time for folks,

family, friends and others who may want to grab a hug and picture with Ruth Ann before we actually convene the executive session. I'll entertain a motion to move into executive session. Is there a second?

Strnisha: Second.

Roll: Mr. Strnisha-yes; Mr. Dixon-yes; Mr. Darwish-yes; Mrs. Leever-yes; Mr. Greenwood-yes. (time of adjournment: 11:55 a.m.)

Greenwood: Just let us know when you're ready to go into executive session, Ruth Ann, OK?

Greenwood: The meeting reconvened at 12:30 p.m., I'll move to adjourn the meeting.

Strnisha: Second. (time of final adjournment: 12:30 p.m.)

Roll: Mr. Greenwood-yes; Mr. Strnisha-yes; Mr. Dixon-yes; Mr. Darwish-yes; Mrs. Leever-yes.

/dsp