

OHIO TURNPIKE COMMISSION

Resolution Adopting Modifications to the Ohio Turnpike Commission's Ethics Policy

WHEREAS, on October 21, 2002, the Ohio Ethics Commission recommended that the Ohio Turnpike Commission consider adopting a model Ethics Policy due to its simplicity in achieving the goal of summarizing required legal standards, without attempting to specifically restate them; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 41-2002, the Commission adopted the Ohio Turnpike Commission's Ethics Policy; and

WHEREAS, the General Counsel has recommended that modifications to the Ethics Policy be considered and adopted by the Commission, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A," with said modifications updating the policy to reference the current Executive Order 2011-03K issued by Governor Kasich relative to the State of Ohio's Ethics Policy, and further indicating how the Commission's policy is to be published to the general public and specifically to those entities that wish to conduct business with the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has duly considered the General Counsel's recommendations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED that the Commission hereby adopts the modifications to the Ohio Turnpike Commission's Ethics Policy, and

FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Counsel is instructed to notify the Ohio Ethics Commission of the Commission's revisions to the policy by forwarding a certified copy of this resolution to the Ohio Ethics Commission; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that, upon adoption of the modifications to the Ohio Turnpike Commission's Ethics Policy, the revised policy shall be published on the Commission's website, and the Commission's Human Resources Department shall distribute copies of the approved document to each Ohio Turnpike Commission employee, together with an acknowledgement of receipt, that shall be executed and returned by each employee to the Human Resources Department acknowledging that they have received a copy of the Ohio Turnpike Commission's Ethics Policy and agree to comply with the terms of said policy.

(Resolution No. 29-2012 adopted June 18, 2012)

OHIO TURNPIKE COMMISSION

Ethics Policy (Modified June 2012)

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Ohio Turnpike Commission (“Commission”) to carry out its mission in accordance with the strictest ethical guidelines and to ensure that Commission members and employees conduct themselves in a manner that fosters public confidence in the integrity of the Commission, its processes, and its accomplishments.

General Standards of Ethical Conduct

Commission members and employees must, at all times, abide by protections to the public embodied in Ohio’s ethics laws, as found in Chapters 102 and 2921, of the Ohio Revised Code, and as interpreted by the Ohio Ethics Commission and Ohio courts. Members and employees must conduct themselves, at all times, in a manner that avoids favoritism, bias, and the appearance of impropriety.

A general summary of the restraints upon the conduct of all members and employees include, but are not limited to, those listed below. Members and employees shall not:

- Solicit anything of value from anyone doing business with the Commission;
- Accept anything of value from anyone doing business with the Commission;
- Solicit or accept employment from anyone doing business with the Commission, unless able to completely withdraw from Commission activity regarding the party offering employment, and the Commission approves the withdrawal;
- Use public position to obtain benefits for the official or employee, a family member, or anyone with whom the official or employee has a business or employment relationship;
- Accept any form of compensation for personal services rendered on a matter before any state agency, or sell goods or services to any state agency, unless the official or employee qualifies for the exception, and files the statement, described in the Ethics Law;
- Hold or benefit from a contract with, authorized by, or approved by, the Commission, unless one of the exceptions in the Ethics Law and related statutes applies;
- Vote, authorize, recommend, or in any other way use his or her position to secure approval of a Commission contract (including employment or personal services) in which the official or employee, a family member, or anyone with whom the official or employee has a business or employment relationship, has an interest;

- Use, or authorize the use of, his or her title, the name “Ohio Turnpike Commission,” or “Commission,” or “OTC,” or the Commission’s logo in a manner that suggests impropriety, favoritism, or bias by the Commission or the official or employee;
- Solicit or accept honoraria prohibited by the Ethics Law;
- Use or disclose confidential information protected by law, unless appropriately authorized; and
- During public service, and for one year after leaving public service, represent any person, in any fashion, before any public agency, with respect to a matter in which the official or employee personally participated while serving with the Commission.

For purposes of this policy:

- “Anything of value” includes anything of monetary value, including, but not limited to, money, gifts, food or beverages, social event tickets and expenses, travel expenses, golf outings, consulting fees, compensation, or employment. “Value” means worth greater than de minimis or nominal.
- “Anyone doing business with the Commission” includes, but is not limited to, any person, corporation, or other party that is doing or seeking to do business with, regulated by, or has interests before the Commission.

Financial Disclosure Statements

Every Commission member or employee required to file a financial disclosure statement by law, or Ethics Commission rule, must file a complete and accurate statement with the Ethics Commission by April 15 of each year. Any member or employee appointed or employed after February 15 shall file a statement within ninety days of appointment or employment.

Ethics Education

All Commission members and employees who hold senior policy positions must participate in the ethics education offered by the Governor’s Office pursuant to Executive Order 2011-03K. The Executive Order requires education in the amount of four hours every two years. In addition to participating in Executive Order training, the Ethics Commission sponsors educational sessions throughout Ohio.

Publication of the Commission’s Ethics Policy

The Commission’s Ethics Policy shall be published on the Commission’s website, www.ohioturnpike.org. Persons, corporations or other parties seeking to conduct business with the Commission in amounts in excess of \$10,000 shall be provided with a copy of the policy and shall be required to acknowledge receipt of the policy in writing in a form to be prescribed by the Commission’s General Counsel.

Assistance

The Ethics Commission is available to provide advice and assistance regarding the Ethics Law and related statutes. The Ethics Commission can be contacted at (614) 466-7090. The Ethics Commission's web site address is: www.ethics.state.oh.us. The Commission's General Counsel and counsel for the Governor's Office are available to answer questions involving this policy.

Penalties

Failure of any Commission official or employee to abide by this Ethics policy, or to comply with the Ethics Law and related statutes, will result in discipline, which may include dismissal, as well as any potential civil or criminal sanctions under the law.

Changes

This policy may only be changed by majority vote of the Commission.