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August 15, 2022

The Honorable Timothy L. DeFoor  
Auditor General  
Finance Building  
613 North Street, Room 229  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0018

**RE: Audit Response from the PA Turnpike Commission**

Dear General DeFoor:

On behalf of Chair Wadud Ahmad and our Commissioners, I provide to you the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission's response to your draft audit report August 10, 2022. We appreciate the opportunity offered to the Commission to provide our comments on this report.

The findings in this audit, much like those of the audit released in 2019, confirm that the Commission continues to meet its obligations and commitments to the Commonwealth and our customers. This continues even as we emerge from a pandemic that drastically impacted our operations, traffic, and revenue and while continuing to shoulder the financial burden of Act 44.

Most notable among those changes is the conversion of the Pennsylvania Turnpike to an all-electronic system of toll collection. The vast majority of our customers prefer electronic payment but for those who do not, the Commission has prioritized expansion of payment types to make it easier and more convenient for customers to pay their tolls in an all-electronic environment. And for those who are not compelled to pay invoices in this environment, we are actively engaged with the Legislature, the PA State Police and surrounding toll agencies to ensure we are taking all measures possible to collect.

The Commission continues to increase the value of traveling our roadway and meet the mobility needs of our customers by reinvesting into the total reconstruction of the System, widening the Turnpike to six lanes and building new access points. To meet the needs of our growing and critical commercial customer we are building and expanding commercial truck parking areas in various locations.

We are meeting the future transportation demands of the Commonwealth through installation of a fiber network across our entire 565-mile footprint to run the Commission's data networks and facilitate Open Road Tolling but also to provide enhanced connectivity for both passenger and commercial vehicles that are connected and/or autonomous.

The Commission is in the process of deploying and modernizing existing EV chargers at all service plazas to enhance services to its customers and adapt to their needs. Understanding the impact transportation services and construction can have on our environment we are committed to and actively working through a 16-point Sustainability plan that addresses the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

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2022 brought a significant reduction in our annual Act 44 payment to support PennDOT from \$450 million to \$50 million. We appreciate the Auditor General's understanding of the mission altering impact this burden put upon the Commission and our responsible approach to managing that debt. While we no longer need to issue new debt to cover this payment, the accumulated debt service on the \$7.9 billion we have provided PennDOT will continue to drive annual toll increases. PA Turnpike customers have done their fair share in helping to fund transit and other transportation projects around the Commonwealth and we support efforts to refocus our customers' toll dollars back into the roadway they traverse.

In closing, we believe you will find our comments useful to your final audit report. Should you have questions regarding any statements included in our response, please contact me directly so that the issues can be addressed without delay.

Sincerely,



Mark P. Compton  
Chief Executive Officer

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Wadud Ahmad, Chair  
The Honorable William K. Lieberman, Vice Chair  
The Honorable Pasquale T. Deon, Commissioner  
The Honorable Yassmin Gramian, Secretary, Department of Transportation  
The Honorable Sean Logan, Secretary-Treasurer  
Craig Shuey, Chief Operating Officer  
Doreen A. McCall, Chief Counsel  
Charles L. Duncan, III, Chief, Compliance, Legislative, and Cultural Affairs  
Bradley J. Heigel, P.E., Chief Engineer  
Richard Dreher, Chief Financial Officer  
Kelli Roberts, Director of Policy and External Affairs