



ASCO Power
Technologies™

Case Study:

Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission relies on critical power systems for safe passage of 500,000 motorists daily.

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Case Study:

Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission

CASE SUMMARY

- Every day, more than 500,000 motorists, passengers, bus drivers, and truckers traverse the 552 miles of highways that make up the Pennsylvania Turnpike.
- Safe passage of people and goods requires lighting at interchanges, tunnels, and other infrastructure. Satisfying drivers and passengers requires efficient tolling services and convenient hospitality services.
- To assure safe, efficient, and convenient travel, The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission provides backup power for lighting, communications, and other critical systems. Project Engineer Bill Poole relies on ASCO transfer switches and ASCO Services to ensure that backup power is available 24x365 for every Turnpike traveler.



THE SITUATION

For motorists and commercial carriers, The Pennsylvania Turnpike is an essential conduit for moving people and goods throughout Pennsylvania and beyond. Its limited-access roadways serve more than 210 million vehicles per year. Seventy-five toll facilities, 28 maintenance depots, and 17 service plazas provide the fuel, food, and services that travelers need. Meeting these needs generated nearly 1.2 billion dollars in revenue in 2018.

Reliable electrical power is essential to ensuring safe lighting and signaling at interchanges and toll plazas. Reliable power for real-time communications enables efficient turnpike operation. Motorists experience safe and reliable service, in part, because the Turnpike Commission continually increases resilience against (1) loss of power to safety systems at interchanges, (2) loss of toll and service revenues, and (3) loss of communications used to manage turnpike operations.

THE SOLUTION

To ensure reliable power that motorists need, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission has provisioned critical systems with more than 100 ASCO automatic transfer switches and ensures their readiness with ASCO's renowned maintenance and upgrade services. More specifically, each communication site uses 200 Amp ASCO 7000 SERIES Automatic Transfer Switches to provide backup power. In addition, each toll plaza relies on premium ASCO 7000 SERIES 400 Amp Isolation-Bypass Automatic Transfer Switches to power communication, toll collection, and lighting systems when public power outages occur. ASCO bypass-isolation designs enable transfer switch service, repair, and testing without interrupting power to vital safety, toll, and communication devices.

"The Turnpike must operate safely 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. Reliable power is essential for customer safety, customer satisfaction, and toll revenue – and ASCO equipment delivers.



ASCO has always been available to support any site across our system. They've always responded in a timely way. I'm happy that the solutions they offer have ensured motorist safety and satisfaction for more than two decades."

Bill Poole, Project Engineer,
Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission

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Over time, the Commission has replaced aging critical power equipment. The Commission has chosen ASCO equipment, even for replacements of equipment from competing makers, and has relied on the ASCO service team to support the upgrades. The replacements enabled the Commission to upgrade switches and add ASCO monitoring and control capabilities. The Commission will now be able to monitor power equipment status across the Turnpike network from terminals located throughout the roadway system. “ASCO switch reliability helps us operate 24 x 365,” said Project Engineer Bill Poole. “The real-time power data will help us act quickly to manage power issues.”

The ASCO team simplifies the ownership experience by providing comprehensive inspection and maintenance services for all ASCO critical power equipment. The Commission also relies on ASCO technicians to inspect, repair, and maintain equipment from other brands. “We can count on ASCO’s service team for maintenance, repair, and upgrades,” said Poole. “ASCO delivers solid value”.



THE OUTCOME

For more than 70 years, motorists and commercial carriers have benefited from backup power solutions deployed by the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission. ASCO equipment and services have long been part of this story. Today, Pennsylvania motorists take for granted the safety and convenience that result from ASCO equipment and services. Turnpike managers and staff enjoy peace-of-mind knowing that ASCO is their single resource for the reliable switchgear, valuable upgrades, and quality services for all its critical power needs.





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