

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

BOARD COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of December 3, 2003

Location: Commission Officer
The Bourse Building, 8th Floor
111 S. Independence Mall, East
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Membership Present

Representative

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs	Joyce Paul	
New Jersey Department of Transportation	Brent Barnes	
Governor of New Jersey's Appointee	Tracie Gelbstein	
Governor of Pennsylvania's Appointee	Richard Hayden	
Pennsylvania Governor's Policy Office	Ronald K. Bednar	
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation	Allen D. Biehler Larry M. King	
Bucks County	Charles H. Martin	
Chester County	Colin A. Hanna	Delaware County
	John E. Pickett	
Montgomery County	Lewis F. Gould, Jr., Esq. Ken Hughes	
Burlington County	Jerald R. Cureton, Esq.	
Camden County	Thomas J. Gurick J. Douglas Griffith	
Gloucester County	Charles E. Romick	

Mercer County	Donna Lewis
City of Chester	William Payne
City of Philadelphia	Maxine Griffith Gary Jastrzab
City of Camden	(not represented)
City of Trenton	Andrew Carten

Non-Voting Members

Federal Highway Administration New Jersey Division	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Division	Spencer Stevens
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Region III	(not represented)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III	(not represented)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region II	(not represented)
New Jersey Office of Smart Growth Herman Volk	
Federal Transit Administration, Region III Keith Lynch	
Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority	Christopher Patton
New Jersey Transit Corporation	James Schwarzwald
Port Authority Transit Corporation	Cheryl Spicer
Delaware River Port Authority	Anisah Abiola
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	(not represented)

Pennsylvania Department of Community and
Economic Development

(not represented)

Regional Citizens Committee Chairman

Dennis Winters

DVRPC Co-Counsel

Pennsylvania Co-Counsel
New Jersey Co-Counsel

Timothy J. Carson, Esq.
Thomas Coleman, Esq.

DVRPC Staff: John J. Coscia, Donald S. Shanis, Barry J. Seymour, William Greene, Thabet Zakaria, Richard Bickel, Charles Dougherty, John Ward, Michael Boyer, Patty Elkis, Elizabeth Schoonmaker, John Griffies, Candace Snyder, and Jean McKinney.

Guests

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

James Lewis
Robert Hannigan
Greg Brown (Dist. 6-0)

New Jersey Department of Transportation

Jerry Mooney
Brian Cuccia

Camden County

Eve Charles
Curt Noe

Call to Order

Chairman Thomas J. Gurick called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Public Comments

Comments from the public were invited to be heard on non-agenda items. No comments were stated.

1. Minutes of Meeting of October 23, 2003

On a **motion** by Mr. Hanna, seconded by Mr. Pickett, the minutes of the meeting of October 23, 2003 were approved as distributed.

2. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Actions

Donald S. Shanis, DVRPC staff, briefed the Board on the following TIP Actions:

a. TIP Action NJ03-02: River Road and 29th Street Drainage Improvements, Camden County

Dr. Shanis stated that Camden County has requested DVRPC amend the FY2004-2006 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new project into the TIP, programming a preliminary engineering phase in FY04 using \$200,000 STP/STU funds. River Road is a main arterial that intersects two state highways and six county roads. Recurring flooding impacts safety and mobility on this main route through Camden and Pennsauken waterfronts. The project is in the vicinity of the intersection of River Road and 29th Street (in and around Van Niede Park) in the city of Camden.

Financial Constraint will be maintained by drawing down the necessary \$200,000 from the DVRPC Local Scoping.

The TIP's conformity finding will not be impacted by this amendment as this project is exempt.

After favorable recommendation was received from the Planning Coordinating Committee/Regional Transportation Committee (PCC/RTC) and the Regional Citizens Committee (RCC), the Board unanimously adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Mr. Cureton, seconded by Mr. Romick that the Board approve TIP Action NJ04-02, Camden County's request to amend the FY 2004 TIP for New Jersey (FY2004-2006) by adding a new project, the River Road and 29th Street Drainage Improvement. This action programs \$200,000 STP-STU funds for a FY04 preliminary engineering phase.

b. TIP Action PA03-40: Center City Transportation Management Association (TMA) Transit Circulator

Dr. Shanis explained that PENNDOT has requested DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP, the Center City TMA Transit Circulator project. The project would be programmed with \$600,000 federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funds (CMAQ) and \$150,000 state match provided by the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). The Central Philadelphia Transportation Management Association (CPTMA) will sponsor the project, and will contract the operation out to a private operator. The service will be similar to the "Philly Phlash" service

that was discontinued last spring in that it will serve Center City, but it will follow a different route, will have a more coordinated and effective marketing component, and will include a \$250,000 financial contribution from the operator through fare revenue. The service will function as a visitor and tourist transit loop that will connect many of the city's historic and cultural sites with major downtown transportation hubs. The FY04 funding will be used for the first year of operating expenses and funding for additional years will be addressed in upcoming months as part of the update of the FY05 Pennsylvania TIP.

Financial Constraint will be maintained by using previously obligated funds from an old TIP project, Phlash Alternative Fuel Shuttles which was set up to purchase vehicles for the now defunct Phlash service. This project has an unspent balance of \$712,155. The funds will be de-obligated and \$600,000 will be programmed and re-obligated for the circulator service. The remaining \$112,155 will be "banked" in the region's balance of FY04 CMAQ funds. DCED will provide the state match of \$150,000.

The TIP's conformity finding will not be impacted by this amendment as this project is exempt.

Favorable recommendation was received from the RTC for the board to approve TIP Action PA03-40.

The RCC recommended that the Board **not** approve TIP Action PA03-40 because the project is not well thought out. Not only does the proposed service duplicate existing service, but the RCC believes that the alternative to spending dollars on new routes would be to better market existing service to tourists. Without an air quality analysis, the RCC has no assurance that the proposed project would provide the kind of benefits that CMAQ was intended to produce.

Mr. Coscia responded that the approval of the proposed Center City Circulator for CMAQ funding is conditioned upon a finding of eligibility by USDOT.

After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the following **motion**:

MOTION by Mr. Biehler, seconded by Mr. Pickett, that the Board approve TIP Action PA03-40, PENNDOT's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2003-2006) by adding a new project, the Center City TMA Transit Circulator. This action programs \$600,000 CMAQ/\$150,000 DCED state match for FY04 operating expenses conditioned upon eligibility of CMAQ funding by USDOT.

3. DVRPC Draft FY 2005 Planning Work Program

John J. Coscia, Executive Director, reported to the Board that the Board Work Planning Program Committee met on December 3, 2003 and recommends that the DVRPC staff distribute the Draft FY 2005 Planning Work Program for review and comment.

The Board unanimously adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Mr. Griffith, seconded by Mr. Barnes, that the Board authorize the DVRPC staff to distribute the DVRPC Draft Fiscal Year 2005 Planning Work Program for review and comment.

4. Proposed Amendments to the Tri-County Water Quality Management Board

a. Greenwich Township Wastewater Management Plan, Greenwich Township, Gloucester County

Patty Elkis, DVRPC Staff, explained that DVRPC is the designated area-wide water quality management planning agency for the Tri-County area (Burlington, Camden and Gloucester counties), and DVRPC approval is one of several that amendment applicants must receive before New Jersey DEP will consider the amendment package complete.

An amendment has been requested to the Greenwich Township Wastewater Management Plan Amendment for Greenwich Township, Gloucester County. The proposed amendment would revise the Greenwich Wastewater Management Plan and the Tri-County Water Quality Management Plan by expanding the sewer service area to include the "Patane Farm."

The proposed sewer service area expansion is located in a future growth area as delineated by the DVRPC Horizons 2025 Land Use Plan and the Tri-County Water Quality Management Board recommends approval.

The Board unanimously adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Mr. Romick, seconded by Ms. Lewis, that the Board approve the amendment to the Tri-County Water Quality Management Plan entitled: Greenwich Township Wastewater Management Plan, Greenwich Township, Gloucester County by adopting Resolution No. B-FY04-01 (copy attached).

b. WAWA, Inc., Woolwich Township (Gloucester County)

Ms. Elkis briefed the Board and explained that this amendment would revise the Tri-County Water Quality Management Plan by allowing a discharge to groundwater of 2,574 gpd for a WAWA convenience store/gas station to be located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Route 322 and Paulsboro Road in the Township of Woolwich. This project is in conformance with local ordinances and if located in a Rural or Agricultural Area as delineated by the DVRPC Horizons 2025 Land Use Plan.

The Board unanimously adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Mr. Romick, seconded by Mr. Hanna, that the Board approve the amendment to the Tri-County Water Quality Management Plan entitled: WAWA, Inc., Woolwich Township, Gloucester County, by adopting Resolution No. B-FY04-002 (copy attached).

5. DVRPC FY 2004 Planning Work Program Amendments

a. Pennsylvania Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program Plan

Barry Seymour, DVRPC staff, explained to the Board that the federal Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program is administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management in the National Ocean Service. Administered in Pennsylvania by the Department of Environmental Protection, DVRPC has served since the program's inception as the administrator for activities in the Delaware Estuary.

NOAA has recently released guidance for the preparation of a state Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan, that provides an assessment of priority conservation needs and guidance for nominating and selecting land conservation projects within the coastal areas of the state. DVRPC's work in regional open space planning coupled with our CZM experience makes us uniquely qualified to undertake this work in Pennsylvania.

DVRPC would prepare the Plan for the Pennsylvania coastal zone areas, including both the Delaware Estuary coastal zone and the Lake Erie coastal zone, working with available information and stakeholders in each community, in accordance with the federal guidance for preparation of the plans.

The total cost of this project is \$25,000 funded by the Pennsylvania Coastal Zone Management Program

The Board unanimously adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Mr. Hanna, seconded by Mr. Cureton, that the Board Amend the FY2004 Planning Work Program to add a project to prepare a coastal and estuarine land conservation program plan for the Pennsylvania coastal zones.

b. Smart Growth Regional Indicators

Mr. Seymour explained to the Board that in FY2003, DVRPC undertook a study, funded by the William Penn Foundation, to research and develop Smart Growth indicators for the region. As requested by the Foundation, these indicators examined Urban Core Development and Land Preservation in the region. The Urban Core Development Study delineated the percent of new development in the metro region that is located in older urban centers. The Land Preservation Study expanded on current Commission research by obtaining maps and data layers in the expanded grant making region

and aggregating this data for a complete representation of the region's current levels of preservation.

The Foundation has now requested that DVRPC continue this research by preparing additional indicators in these areas. The Urban Core Development research will compile data on building permits, loans, and certificates of occupancy in ten older municipalities as selected by the Foundation. The Open Space Protection research will document state, county and municipal open space protection programs, together with the acreage of land protected. This information will serve to inform and guide the Foundation in their grantmaking actions.

The total cost of this project is \$8254, paid for by the William Penn Foundation.

The Board unanimously adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Mr. Hanna, seconded by Mr. Martin, that the Board Amend the FY2004 Work Program to add a project to develop Smart Growth Regional Indicators on behalf of the William Penn Foundation.

6. Regional Citizens Committee (RCC) Report

Dennis Winters, Chairman of the RCC, reported that the RCC asks that the Transportation Enhancement (TE) voting formula be changed to allow the RCC to

have a vote and that this vote be weighted along with those of the Pennsylvania counties and PENNDOT.

Mr. Coscia responded that the RCC's request would be forwarded to the Regional Transportation Committee for consideration.

Mr. Winters also announced that he has been re-elected as the RCC Chair.

7. Executive Director's Report

- a. Mr. Coscia reported that a Board Policy Analysis Committee is scheduled for December 11, 2003. The Agenda for that meeting includes: (1) *The Ratables Chase: Property Taxes and Local Planning*; (2) the results of an assessment of the first year of the *Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI)* Program; and (3) Policy Updates.
- b. Mr. Coscia brought the Board's attention to the brochure (distributed to the Board) entitled: *Reinventing America's Older Communities*, a Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia conference in which DVRPC is a co-sponsor.
- c. Mr. Coscia also mentioned the Urban Land Institute's Older Suburbs Program meeting scheduled for February 4, 2004.

8. Committee Reports

The following committee reports were distributed to the Board DVRPC for their review: (1) Planning Coordinating Committee / Regional Transportation Committee; and (2) Regional Citizens Committee.

9. One Minute Reports

Colin Hanna, Chester County, announced that the December Board meeting would be his last meeting as the Chester County representative and stated that he has enjoyed working with the other commissioners and the DVRPC staff.

William Payne, City of Chester, announced that with the opening of an office building and a more people friendly environment, the City of Chester's Waterfront Development plans are progressing.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was stated.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was stated.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Attachments:

- (1) PCC/RTC Recommendations to the Board for December 3, 2003
- (2) RCC Recommendations to the Board for December 3, 2003
- (3) Resolution No. B-FY04-001 and B-FY04-002

Additional Documents Distributed to the Board:

- (1) *Alert*, November 2003
- (2) Brochure announcing the *Reinventing America's Older Communities* Conference scheduled for January 14-16, 2004.