

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

BOARD COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of January 22, 2009

Location: Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
190 N. Independence Mall West, 8th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Membership Present

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
New Jersey Department of Transportation
New Jersey Governor's Appointee
Pennsylvania Governor's Appointee
Pennsylvania Governor's Policy Office
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Bucks County
Chester County

Delaware County
Montgomery County
Burlington County
Camden County
Gloucester County
Mercer County
City of Chester
City of Philadelphia
City of Camden
City of Trenton

Non-Voting Members

Federal Highway Administration
New Jersey Division
Pennsylvania Division
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
Development, Region III
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region II
Federal Transit Administration, Region III
Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority
New Jersey Transit Corporation

Representative

Joyce Paul
David A. Kuhn
Joseph Neal, Esq.
David Mandelbaum
Joanne R. Denworth
James Mosca
Lynn Bush
Carole Aichele
Ronald Bailey
Thomas Shaffer
Kenneth Hughes
Carol Ann Thomas
Andrew Levecchia
Charles E. Romick
Donna Lewis
(not represented)
Rina Cutler
Edward Williams
Andrew Carten

Jeanette Mar
Matt Smoker

(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
Byron Comati
Pippa Woods

Port Authority Transit Corporation	(not represented)
Delaware River Port Authority	Linda Hayes
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	Kevin Gallagher
Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development	(not represented)
New Jersey Office of Smart Growth	(not represented)
Regional Citizens Committee Chairman	Warren Strumpfer

DVRPC Co-Counsel

Pennsylvania Co-Counsel	Timothy J. Carson, Esq.
New Jersey Co-Counsel	Thomas J. Coleman, Esq.

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

Guests

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation	Linda Guarini (Dist. 6)
Delaware River Port Authority	James McQuilkin
Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission	Glenn F. Reibman
New Jersey Turnpike Authority	Brian C. Wahler
Cross County Connection TMA	William Ragozine
PENJERDEL Council	Andrew Warren
DVRPC Regional Citizens Committee	Eugene N. Cipriani
The Bulletin	Brian Vasoli

Call to Order - Chair's Comments

Chair Carol Aichele called the meeting to order at 10:27 a.m.

Barry Seymour, Executive Director, briefed the Board on the Planning Work Program Meeting which preceded the Board Meeting.

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

No public comments were stated.

1. Minutes of Meeting of December 4, 2008

On a Motion by Mr. Kuhn, seconded by Ms. Thomas, the minutes of the Board Meeting of December 4, 2008 were approved as distributed.

2. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Action

Elizabeth Schoonmaker, DVRPC Manager, Office of Capital Programming, presented the following TIP Actions for approval.

a. PA09-15a: PA 100 South, Pines Community Noisewalls (MPMS #84989), Chester County

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2009-2012 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project into the TIP, PA 100 South, Pines Community Noisewalls (MPMS #84989), and programming final design in FY09 (\$350,000 Economic Development funds (ECON) and construction in FY10 (\$4,300,000 ECON). This project is funded with economic development funds which are additional funds to this region.

This project includes the construction of approximately one mile of noisewalls on PA 100 southbound from the existing Kirkland Avenue overpass to Phoenixville Pike in order to provide mitigation for the Pines Community in West Goshen Township.

Financial constraint will be maintained as this project uses economic development funds which are additional funds to the region.

The TIP's current conformity finding will not be impacted by this amendment as this project is exempt from the regional air quality analysis.

b. PA09-15b: I-476 Southbound, Avondale Springs Noisewalls (MPMS #84990), Delaware County

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2009-2012 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project into the TIP, I-476 Southbound, Avondale Springs Noisewalls (MPMS #84990), and programming final design in FY09 (\$100,000 ECON) and construction in FY10 (\$500,000 ECON). This project is funded with economic development funds which are additional funds to this region.

This project includes a minor extension of the existing noisewalls on southbound I-476 to provide mitigation for the Avondale Springs community.

Financial constraint will be maintained as this project uses economic development funds which are additional funds to the region.

The TIP's current conformity finding will not be impacted by this amendment as this project is exempt from the regional air quality analysis.

Favorable recommendation was received from the Planning Coordinating Committee/Regional Transportation Committee (PCC/RTC) that the Board approve TIP Action PA09-15a and PA09-15b.

The Regional Citizens Committee (RCC) recommended that the Board **not** approve TIP Action PA09-15a and PA09-15b. The RCC objects that economic development funds are being used for a purpose that does not create jobs or economic benefits in these communities. In addition, the normal process for noisewall selection was bypassed.

Discussion ensued and several Board members commented that various soundwalls in various counties have been ineffective and have caused many county citizens to complain.

James Mosca, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), commented that these problems are being examined to help make future soundwalls more effective.

Tim Carson, Pennsylvania Co-Counsel, questioned whether the soundwalls were meeting the Federal Highway Administration standards for design and installation.

It was pointed out by Rina Cutler, City of Philadelphia, that certain types of materials are used in certain environments. Some of the soundwalls are just reflective and do not prevent sound.

The Board agreed to approve the TIP action, however, would like PennDOT to continue to examine the materials used and the effectiveness of soundwalls.

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

MOTION By Mr. Mosca, seconded by Ms. Cutler, that the Board approve the following TIP Actions:

- (1) TIP Action PA09-15a, PennDOT's request to amend the FY2009-2012 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project into the TIP, PA 100 South, Pines Community Noisewalls (MPMS #84989), and programming final design in FY09 (\$350,000 ECON) and construction in FY10 (\$4,300,000 ECON); and,
- (2) TIP Action PA09-15b, PennDOT's request to amend the FY2009-2012 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project into the TIP and programming final design in FY09 (\$100,000 ECON) and construction in FY10 (\$500,000 ECON) for the I-476 Southbound, Avondale Springs Noisewalls (MPMS #84990).

c. **PA09-16: US 322, Main Street / PA 10 Intersection Improvements (MPMS #72603), Chester County**

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2009-2012 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new DEMO project into the TIP, US 322, Main Street/PA 10 Intersection Improvements (MPMS #72603), and programming preliminary engineering (\$75,000 DEMO), final design (\$25,000 DEMO), and construction (\$275,000 DEMO) in FY09, acknowledging a toll credit match. Two SAFETEA-LU Earmarks were made available for this project; a \$384,566 earmark (PA ID# 374, Fed ID# 1076), and a \$100,148 earmark (PA ID# 575, Fed ID# 4765).

This intersection supports a high volume of truck traffic and is a safety concern due to the constrained turning movements within the intersection. This project will include intersection improvements such as new traffic signals and timings. The signal installation will include new posts, mast-arms, heads, conduit, wiring, and a new controller. The curb ramps at the four corners of the intersection will be updated to comply with ADA standards. The feasibility study was completed by PennDOT.

Financial constraint will be maintained as this project uses specially earmarked DEMO funds.

The TIP's current conformity finding will not be impacted by this amendment as this project is exempt from the regional air quality analysis.

After favorable recommendation was received from the PCC/RTC and the RCC that the Board approve TIP Action PA09-16, the Board unanimously adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Ms. Cutler, seconded by Mr. Shaffer that the Board approve TIP Action PA09-16, PennDOT's request to amend the FY2009-2012 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new DEMO project into the TIP and programming preliminary engineering (\$75,000 DEMO), final design (\$25,000 DEMO), and construction (\$275,000 DEMO) in FY09, acknowledging a toll credit match for the US 322, Main Street/PA 10 Intersection Improvements (MPMS #72603).

d. **PA09-17: Schuylkill River Park Pedestrian Bridge (MPMS #81584), Philadelphia**

The City of Philadelphia has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2009-2012 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project into the TIP, Schuylkill River Park

Pedestrian Bridge (MPMS #81584) and programming (\$1,000,000 Statewide Discretionary TE/\$4,201,000 Local match) in FY09 for the construction of an ADA accessible pedestrian bridge, connecting Schuylkill River Park and Schuylkill Banks Park. The State Discretionary TE funds are additional funds to the region. The local match is being provided by the City's Capital Budget. This project is a result of a settlement between the City and CSX to improve access to the Schuylkill Banks Park. CSX agreed to the construction of an at grade crossing over the CSX railroad at Race and Locust Streets if an additional pedestrian bridge over the CSX railroad in the vicinity of Locust Street would also be constructed. The at grade crossing (MPMS #74829) is complete.

The project will be managed by the Philadelphia Streets department and will link the Schuylkill River Park and the Schuylkill Banks Park. The purpose of the pedestrian bridge is to provide bicyclists and pedestrians with an alternative to access the Schuylkill Banks Park from the Schuylkill River Park when the at grade crossing is closed due to CSX train activity.

Financial constraint will be maintained as this project uses State Discretionary funds which are additional funds to the region.

Byron Comati questioned whether CSX had made any contribution to this project.

Ms. Cutler responded that CSX contributed \$1 million to the project.

After favorable recommendation was received from the PCC/RTC and the RCC for the Board to approve TIP Action PA09-17, the Board unanimously adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Ms. Denworth, seconded by Ms. Thomas that the Board approve TIP Action TIP Action PA09-17, The City of Philadelphia's request to amend the FY2009-2012 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project into the TIP and programming (\$1,000,000 Statewide Discretionary TE/\$4,201,000 Local match) in FY09 for the construction of the Schuylkill River Park Pedestrian Bridge (MPMS #81584).

e. **NJ09-05: Maple Shade Township Special Projects Road Program (DB #D0903), Burlington County**

Maple Shade Township of Burlington County has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2009-2012 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new DEMO project to the TIP, Maple Shade Township Special Projects Road Program (DB #TBD), and programming (\$700,000 DEMO/\$2,277,000 Local match) in FY09 for the

reconstruction of three sections of roadway. The project will be funded by a SAFETEA-LU Earmark (Fed ID# 2728) and a local match will be provided by Maple Shade Township in the form of bond funding.

This program will include the reconstruction of the following roadways: School House lane from Old Kings Highway to Route 41 (.14 miles), West Mill Road from Route 38 to South Fork Landing Road (.42 miles), and East Mill Road from South Fork Landing Road to Fellowship Road (CR 610) (.48 miles).

The existing asphalt roadway of School House Lane has deteriorated to a point where safety has become a major concern. The existing roadway also has potholes and inadequate surface drainage. The township proposes to complete a full reconstruction of the roadway and a five foot wide stone shoulder to mitigate erosion at the low point of the road way. These improvements will provide proper surface flow drainage and minimize ponding and winter icing conditions.

The existing asphalt roadway, West Mill Road and East Mill Road, has also deteriorated and has had numerous utility cuts throughout its entire length. The township proposes to complete a full reconstruction of the road way, and other improvements such as eliminating the barriers through the installation of curb cuts and ramps at the intersections along Mill Road, upgrading all the existing ramps that do not meet ADA standards and utilities in the roadway, replacing the concrete curbs and sidewalks as needed, the installation detectable warning strips to aid the visually impaired, crosswalk striping and stop bars, new storm sewer frames and grates. This will enhance access and safety for pedestrians, particularly for school students accessing Maude Wilkens Elementary School on West Mill Road and support the ongoing commercial development along the State highways interconnected by the roadways. No bicycle facilities will be included in this project due to funding constraints and the width of the roadways.

Financial constraint will be maintained as this project uses specially earmarked DEMO funds.

The TIP's current conformity finding will not be impacted by this amendment as this project is exempt from air quality analysis.

Favorable recommendation was received from the PCC/RTC that the Board approve TIP Action NJ09-05.

Favorable recommendation was also received from the RCC, however, the RCC wishes to note its unhappiness regarding the use of SAFETEA-LU earmarked funds for this project.

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

MOTION by Ms. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Levecchia, that the Board approve TIP Action NJ09-05, Maple Shade Township's request to amend the FY2009-2012 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new DEMO project to the TIP, Maple Shade Township Special Projects Road Program (DB #D0903) and programming \$700,000 DEMO/\$2,277,000 Local match in FY09 for the reconstruction of three sections of roadway.

f. **NJ09-06: Bridge Rehabilitation (DB #DR040), Delaware River Port Authority / Port Authority Transit Corporation (DRPA / PATCO)**

DRPA / PATCO has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2009-2012 TIP for New Jersey by adding a project back into the TIP, Bridge Rehabilitation (DB #DR040), and programming \$2.5 million (\$2,000,000 Section 5309/\$500,000 DRPA / PATCO) for engineering, right of way, and construction in FY09.

This project will provide for preventive repairs of approximately 25 bridges built in 1968, including miscellaneous steel repair, concrete repair, joint filler, and spot paint and is now ready to advance to construction.

Financial constraint will be maintained by making adjustments to other existing TIP projects whose schedules or costs have changed.

The TIP's current conformity finding will not be impacted by this amendment as this project is exempt from air quality analysis.

After favorable from the PCC/RTC and the RCC, the Board unanimously adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Mr. Kuhn, seconded by Ms. Cutler, that the Board approve TIP Action NJ09-06, DRPA / PATCO's request to amend the FY2009-2012 TIP for New Jersey by adding a project back into the TIP, Bridge Rehabilitation (DB #DR040), and programming \$2.5 million (\$2,000,000 Section 5309/\$500,000 DRPA/PATCO) for engineering, right of way, and construction in FY09.

3. **Adoption of the DVRPC Fiscal Year 2010 Unified Planning Work Program**

Mr. Seymour explained to the Board that the DVRPC Fiscal Year 2010 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) consists of: (1) DVRPC's Regular Work Program; (2) Supportive Regional Highway Planning Program (SRHPP); and (3) Transit Support Program (TSP). The Planning Work Program reflects the policy direction

provided by the Board's Planning Work Program Committee and the input from member governments, operating agencies and other regional organizations.

To support certain projects which the Board has selected for the DVRPC FY2010 UPWP, TIP Actions will need to be made to the FY2009 TIP for New Jersey and Pennsylvania. A complete list of these TIP actions with the appropriate funding breakdown was distributed to the Board. The source of funds for projects in New Jersey and Pennsylvania will be obtained by making adjustments to other existing TIP projects whose schedules or costs have changed.

After favorable recommendation was received from the PCC/RTC and the RCC that the Board adopt the DVRPC Fiscal year 2010 Unified Planning Work Program, the Board unanimously adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Mr. Kuhn, seconded by Ms. Denworth, that the Board adopt the FY 2010 DVRPC Unified Planning Work Program, authorize the Executive Director to submit applications and documentation as may be required to fund the program and enter into, negotiate and all required contracts and agreements by passing Resolution No. B-FY09-003 (copy attached). Further, that the Board approve the actions to amend or modify the FY 2009 TIP for New Jersey (NJ09-04) and the FY 2009 TIP for Pennsylvania (PA09-14) as required.

4. Regional Citizens Committee (RCC) Report

Warren Strumpfer, RCC Chair, reported on the activities of the RCC Meeting of January 13, 2009.

Mr. Strumpfer announced that Cheryl Tumola and Patrick Mulligan will serve as the Vice Chairs to the RCC for calendar year 2009. Jim Richardson was appointed as the RTC representative (and Pennsylvania Subcommittee representative) with Mr. Strumpfer serving as the New Jersey Subcommittee representative and Tom Cooper at the RTC alternate.

5. Bucks County's New Year's Resolutions

Lynn Bush, Executive Director, Bucks County Planning Commission, presented to the Board *Bucks County's New Year's Resolutions*. The top priority resolutions are to: (1) update the County Comprehensive Plan; (2) prioritize housing investments; (3) develop an Economic Development Plan; (4) continue strong municipal support; (5) launch Open Space II; (6) be green; and (6) plan the new County Justice Center. Ms. Bush then reviewed each priority resolution.

The full update of the county Comprehensive Plan will have a sustainability theme and begin in 2009 with the help of their new GIS data.

To prioritize housing spending, the county will require more scrutiny to housing investments and strategize spending for greater community impact.

The county plans to gather local and regional experts for an Economic Development Plan which reaches beyond the existing economic development infrastructure and focuses on the county's strengths.

The county's ongoing contracts with 21 of 54 municipalities gives Bucks County a strong municipal support system which will be continued.

The \$87 million Open Space Launch, Phase II, Plan is divided into five components; Agricultural Land and Preservation Program, Municipal Open Space Program, Natural Areas Program, County Parks, and Delaware Riverfront Program.

A Bucks Employees Green Initiative (BEGIN) Committee has been formed with representatives from 12 county departments and one from the Delaware Valley Community College. The purpose of this committee is to make recommendations to commissioners on how government can be more environmentally conscious in its day-to-day operations.

Lastly, Ms. Bush mentioned the plan for the new Justice Center. The Bucks County courthouse was built in 1960 and is not adequate. Ms. Bush presented a slide of the new site which includes a new parking garage.

6. Connections Long-Range Plan Public Outreach

Michael Boyer, DVRPC Manager, Long Range Planning, presented the results from the on-line survey, focus groups, county workshops, and public outreach meetings conducted to identify issues and gather input for the *Connections* Long-Range Plan.

An eight question on-line survey was also conducted with the key issue areas being: (1) transportation; (2) land use; (3) the environment; and (4) economic competitiveness. The on-line survey ran for ten weeks and generated 5,000 responses. The on-line survey findings promoted strong regional support for Smart Growth policies and reinvestment in and improvements to the existing transportation infrastructure, particularly transit.

The focus groups consisted of developers of varying specialties, elected and appointed officials, and citizens. The objective of these groups was to assess how well stakeholders support the four key issue areas of the Plan, identify obstacles that prevent stakeholder support, and recommend strategies to overcome

obstacles. Mr. Boyer then reviewed the Focus Group's recommended strategies for the four issue areas.

County workshops were held in each county and drew over 350 participants. These workshops were conducted to gain feedback on long-rang plan goals and strategies.

Mr. Boyer concluded and commented that all the recommended feedback from these groups will be considered for the Long Range Plan. A full detailed report on the comments and recommendations will be available in the near future and a new draft Plan will go out for public comment during April-May. Board adoption is scheduled for July, 2009.

7. Efficient Growth for Growing Suburbs (EGGS)

Patty Elkis, DVRPC Associate Director, Comprehensive Planning, explained to the Board that the EGGS Program provides grants to the growing suburbs to improve growth management and community design and to optimize the efficiency of the transportation network, through better linking of land use and transportation planning.

The program will be funded by PennDOT and administered by DVRPC and is only available for eligible communities in Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties which encompasses 112 municipalities. The eligible municipalities were designated because they were either a growing suburb on the planning area map for the 2030 Plan or a rural area which has over 100 acres of future growth area designated on the Land Use Plan.

Each municipality is eligible to apply for up to \$60,000 alone or \$100,000 for a multi-municipal application.

Examples of eligible activities are access management plans, circulation plans that improve connectivity, transit feasibility studies, transfer of Development Rights (TDR) ordinances, ordinances promoting mixed-use, roadway connectivity and alternative modes of travel to the single-occupant vehicle, official maps, transportation demand reduction measures, and effective agricultural zoning.

Applications are due on March 13, 2009 and will be reviewed by a selection committee designated by the Board. Board approval will be requested at the April 23, 2009 Board Meeting.

8. Executive Director's Report

a. Urban Land Institute Regional Forum

Mr. Seymour announced that the Urban Land Institute will be hosting its 7th Annual Suburban and Regional Forum: *Density – the New 4-Letter Word?* on Wednesday, February 25, 2009 at the Union League in Philadelphia.

b. DVRPC Annual Dinner

Mr. Seymour announced, and urged the Board and Alternates to mark their calendars, for the DVRPC Annual Dinner on May 14, 2009. Mr. Seymour also asked the Board members to recommend potential awardees.

c. Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiative

Pennsylvania allocated \$60 million to support Smart Transportation projects. A list of over 300 projects statewide were received. Because of the anticipation of the federal economic recovery stimulus program, this program will be deferred, however, the process will continue and the projects will be prioritized for eligibility.

d. Climate Change Planning Activities

Mr. Seymour commented on the Board Policy Committee Meeting held to discuss climate change planning activities. As a result of these discussions, the committee recommended the continuation of coordination and facilitation with all partners, that DVRPC continue providing technical assistance and analysis to the municipalities, conduct an impact analysis of actions associated with the planning activities, and continuation of the DVRPC modeling. DVRPC will also continue educating the public on the Climate Change Program.

e. Federal Economic Stimulus Program

Mr. Seymour updated the Board on the status of the federal economic stimulus program. The house Democrats released a proposal on January 15, 2009 for an \$825 billion economic stimulus bill which includes \$100 billion for infrastructure. Out of this \$100 billion, \$30 billion is for highway and bridges, \$9 billion for transit, \$3 billion for airports, \$1-2 billion for AMTRAK and the remaining in other categories.

These funds would be divided among the states on a formula basis and pass through the state departments of transportation and transit agencies. Pennsylvania would receive approximately \$1.25 billion and New Jersey would

receive approximately \$780 million. The formulas are still to be determined for transit, however approximately \$200 million will be distributed to SEPTA.

The Bill is still in draft form and continues to be discussed by the government representatives, however, when a final decision is made, the priority projects submitted by the counties and operating agencies need to be ready for submittal. These project lists will continue to be examined and should contain only projects which are ready to move forward.

Mr. Seymour mentioned the letter (distributed to the Board) sent to the Congressional Delegation and Senators urging support for a federal economic recovery program, particularly for those elements that support investment in our nation's infrastructure. The letter's purpose was also to remind the representatives that DVRPC is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the region and is mandated to work with the state and local partners to identify the transportation priorities that will best serve our nine-county region and that these projects are identified through the TIP and the long-range plan.

In discussion, it was clear that the Board realized they must be diligent in submitting projects and realistic in their choice of projects once the Bill is passed.

It was requested that any revisions and updates of the Bill be emailed to all Board members and alternates. Mr. Seymour agreed.

8. Committee Reports

The following committee highlights were distributed to the Board for their review:
(1) Planning Coordinating Committee/Regional Transportation Committee;
(2) Information Resource Exchange Group; (3) Regional Aviation Committee and
(4) Delaware Valley Goods Movement Task Force.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was stated.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was stated.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Attachments:

- (1) Resolution No. B-FY09-003
- (2) PCC/RTC Recommendations to the Board for January 22, 2009
- (3) RCC Recommendations to the Board for January 22, 2009

Additional Documents Distributed to the Board:

- (1) House Democrats Plan – 2009 Economic Recovery/Stimulus Legislative Efforts
- (2) Alert, January, 2009
- (3) TravelSmart, January, 2009

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