

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

BOARD COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of October 22, 2015

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

Membership Present

Representative

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs	Sean Thompson
New Jersey Department of Transportation	Thomas Wospil
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (phone)	James Mosca
New Jersey Governor's Appointee	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Governor's Appointee	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Governor's Policy & Planning Office	Nedia Ralston
Bucks County	(not represented)
Chester County	Brian O'Leary
Delaware County	John McBlain
	Linda Hill
Montgomery County	Valerie Arkoosh
	Jody Holton
Burlington County	Carol Ann Thomas
Camden County	Andrew Levecchia
Gloucester County	Theresa Ziegler
Mercer County	Matthew Lawson
City of Chester	Latifah Griffin
City of Philadelphia	Denise Goren
City of Camden	Mayor Dana Redd
	Edward Williams
City of Trenton	(not represented)

Non-Voting Members

Federal Highway Administration New Jersey Division	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Division (phone)	Daniel Walston
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Region III	(not represented)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region II	(not represented)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III	(not represented)
Federal Transit Administration, Region III	Tony Cho

Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority
New Jersey Transit Corporation
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Delaware River Port Authority
Port Authority Transit Corporation
New Jersey Office of Planning Advocacy
Pennsylvania Department of Community and
Economic Development

Byron Comati
Lou Millan
(not represented)
(not represented)
Barbara Holcomb
Ben Cornelius
Alan Miller

Aliyah Furman

DVRPC Co-Counsel

Pennsylvania Co-Counsel
New Jersey Co-Counsel

Sean O'Neill
Thomas Coleman

DVRPC Staff: Barry Seymour, John Ward, Patty Elkis, Chris Puchalsky, Elizabeth Schoonmaker, Alison Hastings, Kwan Hui, Taghi Ozbeki, Tom McGovern, Jesse Buerk, Van Doan, Zoe Neaderland, Matt Gates, Sean Greene, Mary Bell, Elise Turner, Greg Krykewycz, Betsy Mastaglio, Chris Pollard, Karen Cilurso, Karin Morris, Kevin Murphy, Rob Graff, Thom Stead, John Griffies, and Renee Wise.

Guests

City of Camden
CCCTMA
NJDOT CPD
NJDOT
Urban Engineers
Pennoni Associates
Code for Philly
Code for Philly
Code for Philly
Code for Philly
Richard Avicolla
Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions

Novella Hinson
William Ragozine
Jesse Minsky
Monica Etz
Michael Mastaglio
Don Shanis
Dawn McDougall
Cory Acri
Kathryn Killebrew
Lloyd Emelle
G & A
Sue Herman

Call to Order - Chair's Comments

Chair Mayor Dana Redd called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and asked if there was any press in the room.

DVRPC Executive Director Barry Seymour noted that Jim Mosca from PennDOT and Daniel Walston from Federal Highway Administration (Pennsylvania) were participating in the meeting by phone. Mr. Seymour welcomed Brian O'Leary, Chester County's new Planning Director, Latifah Griffin, the City of Chester's new Planning Director and representative on the DVRPC Board, Theresa Ziegler, Gloucester County's new

representative on the DVRPC Board, and Thomas Wospil, NJDOT's representative for today's meeting.

Public Comments on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items

No public comments were received.

Action Items

1. Minutes of Meeting of September 30, 2015

The Board adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Ms. Goren, seconded by Ms. Ralston, to approve the minutes of September 30, 2015.

2a. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP Action)

Elizabeth Schoonmaker, DVRPC Manager, Office of Capital Programs, presented the following TIP action to the Board:

a. PA15-62: I-76, Regional Travel Information, (MPMS #80093), Various Counties

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2015 - 2018 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding the final design phase (FD) back in to the TIP in FY16 (\$350,000 CAQ) and by adding an incidental utility (UTL) phase in FY16 (\$150,000 CAQ) and an incidental ROW phase in FY16 (\$50,000 CAQ).

The final design phase was programmed on the FY2013 TIP but was never obligated. The final design phase needs to be added back in to the TIP to keep the project on schedule for an October 2016 construction letting.

This project will implement a Variable Speed Limit System and a Queue Detection System along I-76 from I-276 to US 1. The new Variable Speed Limit and Queue Detection systems will utilize existing fiber optic communications infrastructure and existing ITS equipment supplemented with additional equipment for these new systems. The purpose is to improve safety and traffic operations along the corridor. The existing static speed limit signs will be replaced with electronic signs that can show different speed limits. The Queue Detection System will determine areas of queuing or slow-downs in real-time and alert motorists of conditions using existing DMS and additional signing. The additional signing is anticipated to be either more DMS, smaller DMS signing with flashers, static signing with flashers, or a combination.

Over 2,100 crashes were reported along this roadway section between 2009 and 2013 with 66% being rear-end crashes. Variable Speed Limits are used to maximize capacity with uniform travel speeds, provide safer travel speeds for conditions, and reduce rear-end collisions. Queue Detection is used to reduce sudden stopping, reduce bottlenecks from rear end crashes and promote more uniform driver behavior. These systems are anticipated to reduce total number of crashes, accelerate response to crashes, alert drivers to emerging incidents, and reduce delays along the corridor.

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

Favorable recommendation was received from the Regional Technical Committee.

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

MOTION by Mr. Mosca, seconded by Mr. McBlain, that the Board approve the following TIP action:

PA15-62, PennDOT's request that DVRPC modify the FY2015 - 2018 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding the final design phase (FD) back in to the TIP in FY16 (\$350,000 CAQ) and by adding an incidental utility (UTL) phase in FY16 (\$150,000 CAQ) and an incidental ROW phase in FY16 (\$50,000 CAQ).

3a. DVRPC FY 2016 Work Program Amendment: I-95 Central and South Philadelphia Traffic Forecasts

Matt Gates, DVRPC Manager, Office of Modeling and Analysis, explained that PennDOT is beginning to prepare long range reconstruction plans for I-95 between Spring Garden Street and Broad Street ("Sector B"). In addition to the No-Build condition, approximately nine additional alternatives are under consideration, which include a TSM alternative and several configurations for the Broad Street, I-76, Penn's Landing area interchanges. DVRPC will prepare daily and peak hour traffic forecasts for each alternative for a design year of 2040 or 2045.

Favorable recommendation was received from the Regional Technical Committee.

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

MOTION by Ms. Goren, seconded by Mr. Wospil, that the Board amend:

The DVRPC FY 2016 Planning Work Program to include I-95 Central and South Philadelphia Traffic Forecasts.

4. DVRPC Competitive CMAQ Program for New Jersey(2015) Recommended Projects

Sean Greene, DVRPC Manager, Air Quality Programs, explained that the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) is a federal program established for projects that contribute to the attainment of the Clean Air Act standards by reducing emissions from highway sources. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for New Jersey (FY16–19) set aside funding for a regional Competitive CMAQ Program to identify and fund eligible projects to be advanced starting in FY16. The DVRPC Competitive CMAQ Program (2015) provided \$3.6 million CMAQ funds for projects in New Jersey.

Nine (9) project applications, seeking \$4.9 million in CMAQ funds, were submitted for consideration. The projects were evaluated by the New Jersey CMAQ Subcommittee using the selection criteria posted in the DVRPC 2015 Competitive CMAQ Program Guidance (www.dvrpc.org/cmaq). The CMAQ Subcommittee has recommended that 5 projects, totaling \$2,271,000 be approved for funding. Other projects will be evaluated that would be eligible for funding but do not meet the time constraint for delivery established for the competitive program.

The recommended projects will be added to the CMAQ line item in the TIP for New Jersey (DB #X065), and will be broken out as individual projects at the appropriate time. There will be no impact on the TIP or long-range-plan conformity determination. A project level analysis has been completed for each recommended project, and the DVRPC Competitive CMAQ Program will result in an emissions benefit for the DVRPC region.

Favorable recommendation was received from the Regional Technical Committee.

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

MOTION by Ms. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Levecchia, that the Board approve:

The list of recommended projects to be funded as part of the DVRPC Competitive CMAQ Program (2015). Further, this action will amend the FY 2016 TIP for NJ (FY16-19) to include the list of 5 projects in DB #X065 (Local CMAQ Initiatives). Projects will be drawn from the line items at the appropriate time.

5. Adoption of the 2015 Regional Congestion Management Process (CMP)

Zoe Neaderland, DVRPC Manager, Office of Transportation Safety and Congestion Management, explained that the CMP is a requirement of the federal surface transportation legislation. DVRPC is a national leader with its CMP work and this presentation finalizes the fourth cycle.

The CMP analyzes the regional multimodal transportation network and identifies congested corridors and strategies to minimize congestion. It is medium-term planning that strengthens the connection between the Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). CMP efforts are coordinated with statewide and other related undertakings, including incorporating what is known so far about MAP-21 congestion performance measures.

One public comment was received, citing concerns with handling the peak and non-peak periods near the three Stadiums; Xfinity Live, the Navy Yard Access point, and the 2016-17 Casino Complex. A response from DVRPC followed. Ms. Neaderland pointed out that the CMP has sub corridors that address this area.

Executive Director Barry Seymour noted that the CMP identifies key congested corridors. For SOV- adding capacity the CMP is a listing of options and measures that can be taken to address areas of concern but it does not obligate specific actions.

Favorable recommendation was received from the Regional Technical Committee.

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

MOTION by Mr. Levecchia, seconded by Ms. Arkoosh, that the Board adopt:

The 2015 update of the regional Congestion Management Process (CMP).

6. New Jersey Department of Transportation's Systemic Pilot Program for Roundabouts

Kevin Murphy, DVRPC Assistant Manager, Safety Programs, explained that on July 30th, 2015, the New Jersey Department of Transportation announced a new safety initiative called Systemic Pilot Program for Roundabouts. Although the state has made great progress over the last two years implementing safety improvements on the state and local systems, intersections continue to experience crashes at a rate higher than the national average.

With this new pilot program, NJDOT is striving to improve safety at intersections. The modern roundabout—the focus of this pilot program—is an FHWA proven safety countermeasure that is effective at eliminating crossing conflicts that are common among conventional intersections.

While roundabouts are not typically considered a low-cost systemic countermeasure, NJDOT's pilot program provides New Jersey counties a special opportunity to implement a modern roundabout on a local roadway using federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds for design and construction. The highest goal of this program is to implement modern roundabouts widely across the state, in systemic fashion, to drive down crash fatalities and injuries.

DVRPC is facilitating this program in partnership with NJDOT, and assisting county partners with the application process. At this time Gloucester County has a project ready which is reflected in this action item. DVRPC is working with Mercer, Camden, and Burlington Counties on possible applications in the near future.

Carol Thomas, Burlington County, asked why the price tag for this project was so low. Mr. Murphy responded that it is because the requested amount is only for construction and does not include design. Mr. Seymour asked if this project would be a line item in the TIP or if this is additional funding not included in the TIP. Ms. Schoonmaker responded that it is additional funding. Byron Comati, SEPTA, noted that there are bus considerations and wheel base issues with roundabouts.

Favorable recommendation was received from the Regional Technical Committee.

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

MOTION by Ms. Ziegler, seconded by Mr. Levecchia, that the Board approve:

The following project to be submitted for inclusion in the New Jersey Department of Transportation's Systemic Pilot Program for Roundabouts, to be funded with HSIP funds during FY2016, and amend the FY2016 TIP for New Jersey (TIP Action # NJ16-002) by including the project in the Local Safety/High Risk Rural Roads Program (DB #04314):

- \$1,000,000 HSIP for FY16 CON of Intersection Improvements at CR 551 (Auburn Rd.) and CR 662 (High Hill Rd.) – Roundabout Woolwich Township, Gloucester County, NJ.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. One Minute Reports

Ben Cornelius, PATCO, reported that PATCO has been conducting Title VI surveys at their stations with DVRPC's help. Mr. Cornelius thanked DVRPC and noted that the surveys are going very well. PATCO's new schedule is effective today and there will be no service gaps through the beginning of December.

Barbara Holcomb, DRPA, reported that PATCO's Title VI survey is going very well and the target of 2,500 responses has almost been met, with 2,300 being submitted to date. Ms. Holcomb noted that DVRPC's Port Impact Study for DRPA has just been completed and she would like to see it presented to the Board in the future.

Byron Comati, SEPTA, reported that SEPTA has a new General Manager, Jeffrey Knueppel. He is a long term SEPTA employee and he hopes to attend Board meetings in the future.

Thomas Wospil, NJDOT, reported that the NJTIP was submitted to FHWA and FTA for their review and approval. Authorization of federal funds for the new fiscal year is taking place and PennDOT and NJDOT have a new federal aid system, FMIS 5, which will hopefully be going live on Monday.

James Mosca, PennDOT, reported that the department has issued TIP financial guidance for the FY17 program update. There was a conference call for the MPOs across the state on the investment plan and how federal and state funds can be used to meet our needs.

Daniel Walston, FHWA PA, reported that at the end of September the Department of Transportation held a webinar on freight and MAP-21. Recently the National Freight Strategic Plan was made available and comments are welcomed.

Latifah Griffin, City of Chester, reported that William Payne retired as the City of Chester's Planning Director and that she has taken over that position. She noted that she is looking forward to representing the City of Chester at future Board meetings.

Carol Thomas, Burlington County, reported that the second roundabout in the county is nearing completion. The county is doing a lot of landscaping at that site and more roundabouts are in the works as well.

John McBlain, Delaware County, reported that the county released a new reuse study on the Delaware River Waterfront industrial areas. This report will help to identify existing and new industries that could use the natural gas products that will be brought there.

Brian O'Leary, Chester County, reported that he has taken over as the new Chester County Planning Director and he is looking forward to being a part of the DVRPC Board as an alternate.

Valerie Arkoosh, Montgomery County, reported that she attended a conference for high school students yesterday in the county. Roughly 75 students from five high schools were in attendance to learn about planning and environmental concerns. On October 26 there is a Walk Montco Symposium at Ambler Theater at 10 am. She encouraged Board members to attend. Ms. Arkoosh thanked Jody Holton and county planning staff for their presentation at the Board of Commissioners meeting last Thursday about the county's open space and trail program.

Presentation Item

8. Changes are coming to the Pennsylvania Turnpike and I-95

Alan Williamson, Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, explained that beginning in January 2016 the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission will introduce cashless tolling for

motorists crossing the Delaware River Bridge westbound from New Jersey. These tolling changes are necessary as the Pennsylvania Turnpike prepares to build a highway speed connection with I-95 and complete the “missing link” to make I-95 continuous from Maine to Florida. As the PA Turnpike turns 75, the new tolling point at the Delaware River Bridge will improve safety, reduce vehicle emissions and will help to power national mobility and commerce.

Executive Director Barry Seymour asked if the penalty would be waived for first time violations. Mr. Williamson responded that the Commission currently has something like that in place and that going forward violators will receive a certificate of passage and that offenders would have the ability to pay later. Ms. Arkoosh asked what happens with rental cars. Mr. Williamson responded that the Turnpike Commission is revamping the website to help customers understand the costs and is educating rental car companies about the program. Ms. Griffin asked how the Commission is going to handle failure to comply with tolling regulations and punitive measures. Mr. Williamson responded that the Commission is working to get permission from neighboring states for enforcement. Nedra Ralston, PA Governor’s Policy and Planning Office, asked what is being done to accommodate for the employment of the toll booth operators and what the cost savings will be with the new system. Mr. Williamson responded that some operators will be moved to the new plaza. With regards to the cost savings the capital savings over 40 years will be substantial.

9. Greater Philadelphia’s Life Science and Health Care Cluster

Mary Bell, DVRPC Manager of Demographic and Economic Analysis, explained that Greater Philadelphia has long been known as a leader in the life science cluster, a broad categorization of industries that include health care, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, medical devices, and related support services. The findings of a recent data snapshot that assesses the relative importance of life sciences to the regional economy were presented.

Matthew Lawson, Mercer County, noted that the location quotient appears to be up only in Boston and that for health care it is not really an MSA region. Byron Comati, SEPTA, noted that it is difficult to compare MSAs and that it flattens everything out, with health care changing so much. Tony Cho, FTA, noted that there may be a need to get data on where people are coming from for healthcare services and whether it is possible to get this data from the hospitals. Ms. Arkoosh, Montgomery County, noted that in the late 90’s there were too many hospital beds and now the data seems to be showing that we have too few hospital beds. She noted that perhaps this is evidence of right-sizing.

10. Executive Director's Report

a. Cycle Philly Award

Mr. Seymour called the Board's attention to the Code for Philly team who won the Code for America award for CyclePhilly . He thanked the Code for Philly team and welcomed them to the Board meeting, presenting Cory Acri, Lloyd Emelle, and Kathryn Killebrew with gifts.

b. New Report Releases

Mr. Seymour reported that DVRPC is completing some new reports including: (1) Alternatives Analysis for City Branch Avenue (2) Renewing Race Street: A Mobility Analysis

b. Board Meeting Dates for 2016

Mr. Seymour noted that the 2016 dates for DVRPC Board meetings are in the Board packets.

c. FY17 Work Program Development

Mr. Seymour reported that he has met with several counties to discuss work program priorities, ideas, and concerns. Work program proposals were due by October 16 and 41 proposals have been received. Following today's Board meeting (1:00 pm-3:00 pm), there will be a Work Program Workshop to discuss and review proposals received.

d. PA Planning Partners

Mr. Seymour noted that the Pennsylvania Planning Partners Meeting was canceled due to travel restrictions resulting from the Pennsylvania state budget impasse.

e. Mid-Atlantic Roundtable

Mr. Seymour called the Board's attention to this one-day conference of MPOs and others along the Mid-Atlantic, hosted by WILMAPCO in Wilmington, on October 29. Mr. Seymour noted that he and Deputy Executive Director John Ward are participating.

f. Manayunk Bridge Ribbon Cutting

Mr. Seymour reported that he and Secretary Richards are both participating in this ribbon-cutting for the Manayunk Bridge on October 30 at 11 am. Both the state and DVRPC have put money into this project, which created a trail atop the old rail bridge across the Schuylkill River. Philadelphia and Montgomery County are participating as well. He encouraged Board members to attend.

g. Delaware Valley Smart Growth Alliance Event

Mr. Seymour noted that on November 5 at 4 pm in Media, there is an event focused on “Can the Suburbs Compete for Millennials” with representatives from the Urban Land Institute, King of Prussia Business Improvement District, and a local developer. This is of interest to all local governments in the area.

h. Healthy Communities Task Force

Mr. Seymour explained that this is an initiative of DVRPC, where the Commission has partnered with the public health community to look at the linkage between planning and health. Several events have been held to date, and the next committee meeting is scheduled for November 12 at 10 am at DVRPC’s office.

i. Age Friendly Philadelphia Summit

Mr. Seymour called the Board’s attention the Age Friendly Philadelphia Summit which is taking place at the Barnes institute on November 10.

j. DVRPC 50th Anniversary Celebration

Mr. Seymour reported that the DVRPC 50th Anniversary Celebration will be taking place on December 9 at the Hilton, Penn’s Landing. The Board meeting will begin at 4:00 pm and will be followed by dinner and awards. This year DVRPC will give awards for the best regional projects over the last 50 years in each of the nine counties. Mr. Seymour noted that there is sponsorship information and sponsorship forms in the Board folders.

k. Regional Trails Program Additional Funding

Mr. Seymour noted that DVRPC received a request for additional support for the Cobbs Creek Trail project design in the amount of \$33,000.

10. Committee Reports

The following committee reports were distributed to the Board for review:

- (1) Regional Technical Committee
- (2) Regional Safety Task Force

- (3) Regional Community and Economic Development Forum
- (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 11:57 a.m. on a **MOTION** by Ms. Goren, seconded by Ms. Arkoosh.

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, and related nondiscrimination statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. DVRPC's website, www.dvrpc.org, may be translated into multiple languages. Publications and other public documents can be made available in alternative languages and formats, if requested. DVRPC public meetings are always held in ADA-accessible facilities and in transit-accessible locations when possible. Auxiliary services can be provided to individuals who submit a request at least seven days prior to a meeting. Requests made within seven days will be accommodated to the greatest extent possible. Any person who believes they have been aggrieved by an unlawful discriminatory practice by DVRPC under Title VI has a right to file a formal complaint. Any such complaint may be in writing and filed with DVRPC's Title VI Compliance Manager and/or the appropriate state or federal agency within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory occurrence. For more information on DVRPC's Title VI program, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, please call (215) 238-2871 or email public_affairs@dvrpc.org.

I certify that this is a true and correct copy.

Renee Wise, Recording Secretary