

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

BOARD COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of April 27, 2017

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	Monica Etz
New Jersey Governor's Appointee	Thomas Huth
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation	James Mosca
Pennsylvania Governor's Appointee	Gina Burritt
Pennsylvania Governor's Policy & Planning Office	Nedia Ralston
Bucks County	Lynn Bush
Chester County	Michelle Kichline
	Brian O'Leary
Delaware County	Linda Hill
Montgomery County	Valerie Arkoosh
	Jody Holton
Burlington County	Carol Thomas
Camden County	Lou Cappelli
Gloucester County	(not represented)
Mercer County	Leslie Floyd
City of Chester	Peter Rykard
City of Philadelphia	Michael Carroll
	Christopher Puchalsky
City of Camden	Ed Williams
City of Trenton	(not represented)

Non-Voting Members

Federal Highway Administration New Jersey Division	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Division	(not represented)
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	(not represented)
Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Association	Byron Comati
	Liz Smith
New Jersey Transit Corporation	Lou Millan

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

(not represented)
Anderson Hartzell
Barbara Holcomb
Rohan K. Hepkins
Gerard Scharfenberger

Aliyah Furman

DVRPC Co-Counsel
Pennsylvania Co-Counsel
New Jersey Co-Counsel

Andy Bockis
Doug Heinold

DVRPC Staff

Barry Seymour, John Ward, Patty Elkins, Alison Hastings, Elizabeth Schoonmaker, Mike Boyer, Kwan Hui, Rick Murphy, Greg Krykewycz, Taghi Ozbeki, Karin Morris, Sean Greene, Brad Lane, Shoshana Akins, Ken Peters, Paul Smith, Jesse Buerk, Mary Bell, Elise Turner, Najah Jackson, Joe Fazekas, Tom Keenan, Ted Dahlburg, Rob Graff, Kim Korejko, and Renee Wise.

Guests

PennDOT 6-0
PennDOT 6-0
CH Planning
GPI

Jonathan Korus
Kathleen Winfree
Charnelle Hicks
Joe Orth

Call to Order - Chair's Comments

Chair Valerie Arkoosh called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. and asked if there was any press in the room.

Public Comments on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items

No public comments were stated.

Action Items

1. Minutes of Meeting of March 23, 2017

The Board adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Ms. Bush, seconded by Ms. Burritt, to approve the minutes of March 23, 2017.

2. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP Actions)

Elizabeth Schoonmaker, DVRPC Associate Director, Transportation, presented the following TIP actions to the Board:

2a. PA17-33: Woodland Avenue over SEPTA, City of Philadelphia, (MPMS #98232)

SEPTA has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2017 – 2020 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding the Woodland Avenue over SEPTA project (MPMS #98232) back into the TIP and funding a construction cost increase in FY18 in the amount of \$7,000,000 (\$3,500,000 STP/\$3,500,000 Local). This would increase the total estimated cost for the project to \$11,800,000. Federal funds would be flexed (transferred) to SEPTA.

The Woodland Avenue Bridge over SEPTA is a multi-modal bridge that was originally constructed in 1928 and has exceeded its useful life. Due to the poor condition of the bridge, it is currently weight restricted. This structure was considered an orphan bridge, but is now owned by the City of Philadelphia, with SEPTA handling maintenance responsibilities. It is critical that the bridge is repaired in order to continue its use by vehicular and pedestrian traffic as well as SEPTA's Trolley Routes 11 and 36. In addition, SEPTA's Media/Elwyn Regional Rail line operates beneath the bridge.

The Woodland Avenue over SEPTA project was initially programmed under the County Bridge Line Item (MPMS #95447), which sets aside funding for county owned bridges in need of repair in the DVRPC region. The original cost estimate of \$4,800,000 was drawn down during the FY2013 TIP and flexed to SEPTA, who agreed to manage the project and provide the match. The cost sharing agreement between SEPTA and PennDOT on this \$11,800,000 project represents a great example of partnership benefitting the region. The current cost increase is primarily the result of restricted work windows and the need to limit impacts to transit service and SEPTA customers. To minimize these impacts, the bridge work is being timed to coincide with a planned summer 2018 outage scheduled for the Media/Elwyn Regional Rail service. All work must be carefully orchestrated within extremely limited time windows.

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 adopted the following **motion**:

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

PA17-33, SEPTA's request that DVRPC amend the FY2017 – 2020 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding the Woodland Avenue over SEPTA project (MPMS #98232) back into the TIP and funding a construction cost increase in FY18 in the amount of \$7,000,000 (\$3,500,000 STP/\$3,500,000 Local). This would increase the total estimated cost for the project to \$11,800,000. Federal funds would be flexed (transferred) to SEPTA.

2b. PA17-34: PA 663 Traffic Study, I-476 to PA 309, (MPMS #108907), Bucks County

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2017 – 2020 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new \$100,000 transportation study, the PA 663 Traffic Study, I-476 to PA 309, (MPMS #108907), to the TIP for STUDY in FY19 (\$100,000 STATE 581).

The purpose of the PA 663 Traffic Study is to evaluate transportation facility improvement needs in the PA 663 corridor in Milford and Richland Townships, Bucks County. PA 663 provides an important regional linkage connecting I-476 (PA Turnpike Northeast Extension) and PA 309 in the Quakertown area. PA 663 between I-476 and PA 309 is composed of highway segments of varying widths and lane configurations that have been constructed by both private and public funds. Significant private development is anticipated along the corridor, including the construction of a medical campus by St. Luke's Hospital at the intersection PA 663 and Portzer Road. The PA 663 Traffic Study will investigate anticipated traffic growth and identify estimated timeframes and costs as to when intersections and/or segments may need to be improved and/or possibly widened to provide for efficient traffic operations in the 3.5-mile 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 by the Regional Technical Committee.

The Board adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Ms. Bush, seconded by Ms. Etz that the Board approve the following TIP action:

PA17-34, PennDOT's request that DVRPC amend the FY2017 – 2020 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new \$100,000 transportation study, the PA 663 Traffic Study, I-476 to PA 309, (MPMS #108907), to the TIP for STUDY in FY19 (\$100,000 STATE 581).

2c. PA17-35: PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund Projects (2016), (Various MPMS #s), Various Counties

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC approve the list of recommended projects for the 2016 PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund and amend the FY2017 – 2020 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding the seven selected projects to the DVRPC regional program, using \$5,865,000 in Statewide Multimodal funding (STATE 411) for engineering and construction. These are additional funds to the region.

The Multimodal Transportation Fund is a competitive statewide program established by Act 89 of 2013 to provide grants to ensure that a safe and reliable system of transportation is available for the residents of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The program is intended to provide financial assistance to municipalities, councils of governments, businesses, economic development organizations, public transportation agencies, rail/freight entities, and ports to improve transportation assets in order to enhance communities, pedestrian safety, and transit revitalization. The 411 fund code specifically refers to the Multimodal Transportation Fund administered by PennDOT, not the separate Multimodal Transportation Fund administered by the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Finance Authority (CFA).

The following is the list of 2016 Multimodal Transportation Fund projects that were awarded funding in the DVRPC region and that will be amended into the TIP. Brief descriptions of each project and award follow, organized by county.

Bucks County:

- **North Main Street Sidewalks, Yardley Borough (MPMS #107833)** – \$454,000 to install concrete sidewalks along North Main Street in Yardley Borough.

Montgomery County:

- **Old York-Susquehanna Road Intersection Improvements, Abington Township, (MPMS #107825)** – \$588,000 for improvements to the intersection of Old York Road (PA 611) and Susquehanna Roads, including realigning the intersection, increasing the turning radii, adding a turning lane, upgrading traffic signals, and improving access to businesses on the northwestern corner of the intersection.
- **Bethayres Streetscape Plan, Lower Moreland Township, (MPMS #107824)** – \$209,000 to implement a streetscape plan with goals that include supporting walkability along Huntingdon Pike, promoting economic revitalization, providing children access to safer routes to school, and increasing connectivity to public transportation hubs and access to neighboring communities.

City of Philadelphia:

- **City Avenue (US 1) Improvements, (MPMS #107832)** – \$890,000 for road and pedestrian safety improvements along City Avenue. The project will include the installation of 100 foot left turn lanes at Old Lancaster Avenue and 54th Street, as well as improvements to pedestrian facilities, such as the reconstruction of raised crosswalks and installation of ADA ramps.
- **Logan Pointe Roadway Improvements, (MPMS #107870)** – \$2,000,000 to help with improvements to the Logan Triangle area in North Philadelphia. Arterial access roads 9th Street and Wyoming Avenue will be reconstructed.
- **South Street to Christian Street Trail Extension, (MPMS #107826)** – \$912,000 to complete the final phase of construction for the South Street to Christian Street extension of the Schuylkill River Trail, which may include plaza paving, fencing, trail furniture installation, landscaping, irrigation, pavement markings, and signage.

- **Make Way for Children Philadelphia, (MPMS #107831)** – \$812,000 to invest in critically needed pedestrian and bicyclist safety infrastructure along corridors to three public elementary schools that have been identified as "high child pedestrian crash schools."

Financial constraint will be maintained as these are additional funds to the region.

Favorable recommendation was received by the Regional Technical Committee.

A public comment was received from Rodney Richard of Mercer County, New Jersey, regarding the Yardley, Pennsylvania sidewalk project on Main Street. He asked if a study was done to show the benefit of new sidewalks, if there be new walkers, and generally how the new sidewalks encourage more people to use them. A response from DVRPC and PennDOT followed.

The Board adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Ms. Kichline, seconded by Ms. Ralston, that the Board approve the following TIP action:

PA17-35, PennDOT's request that DVRPC approve the list of recommended projects for the 2016 PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund and amend the FY2017 – 2020 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding the seven selected projects to the DVRPC regional program, using \$5,865,000 in Statewide Multimodal funding (STATE 411) for engineering and construction. These are additional funds to the region.

- Bucks County:
 - North Main Street Sidewalks, MPMS #107833; \$454,000
- Montgomery County:
 - Old York-Susquehanna Road Intersection Improvements, MPMS #107825; \$588,000
 - Bethayres Streetscape Plan, MPMS #107824; \$209,000
- City of Philadelphia:
 - City Avenue (US 1) Improvements, MPMS #107832; \$890,000
 - Logan Pointe Roadway Improvements, MPMS #107870; \$2,000,000
 - South St. to Christian St. Trail Extension, MPMS #107826; \$912,000
 - Make Way for Children Philadelphia, MPMS #107831; \$812,000

3. Amend DVRPC By-Laws Regarding Cancelled Meetings

DVRPC Executive Director Barry Seymour explained that the By-Laws of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, as amended October 25, 2012 and with subsequent amendments, govern the structure and administration of the Commission. While the By-Laws provide specific guidance, certain areas require further amendment to provide additional detail, or to update the By-Laws to reflect current practice.

The proposed amendments would amend Section III of the By-Laws of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission and Section IV of the By-Laws of the Executive Committee to add a new sub-section D, entitled Meeting Cancellations as related to the process for Board action in the event that a regularly scheduled Board or Executive Committee meeting must be cancelled. In these cases, a publically-accessible meeting would be scheduled to address any action item(s) deemed essential to carry out the immediate business of the Commission. Board members may attend and vote by person or via conference call. Such voting would follow a seven day notice for public comments, proper motions and seconds, discussion as needed, and a valid quorum. Any such actions taken will be recorded in the public minutes.

Valerie Arkoosh, Montgomery County, asked if the public would be able to call in for meetings that were rescheduled and call-in only. Mr. Seymour responded that the public would not be able to call-in for those meetings. Thomas Huth, New Jersey Governor's Appointee, explained that the proposed amendment is in compliance with the Open Public Records laws for New Jersey.

The Board adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Ms. Ralston, seconded by Mr. Cappelli, that the Board adopt:

Resolution No. B-FY17-005 to amend Section III of the DVRPC By-Laws and Section IV of the Executive Committee By-Laws, adding a new sub-section D entitled Meeting Cancellations.

4. Appointment of Nominating Committee for Fiscal Year 2018 DVRPC Board Officers

DVRPC Executive Director Barry Seymour explained that a Nominating Committee was selected to appoint candidates for Board Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer for Fiscal Year 2018 (July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018). The Chair for FY 2018 must be from New Jersey. The committee will report these candidates at the May Board Meeting and elections will take place at the June Board Meeting. The recommended Committee is as follows:

David Kuhn, New Jersey Department of Transportation
Sean Thompson, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
James Ritzman, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Gina Burritt, Pennsylvania Governor's Appointee
Valerie Arkoosh, Montgomery County

The Board adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Ms. Kichline, seconded by Mr. Cappelli that the Board:

Approve the Nominating Committee for fiscal year 2018 Board Officers.

INFORMATION ITEM

5. VW Settlement Funding

Sean Greene, DVRPC Manager, Air Quality Programs, explained that in October 2016, the U.S. government agreed to a \$14.7 billion settlement against Volkswagen (VW) for equipping more than 500,000 of its diesel vehicles with emissions testing “cheat” devices. Pennsylvania and New Jersey are eligible for over \$166 million in funds to replace diesel vehicles to mitigate the air pollution emitted from VW vehicles that violated emission testing rules. Each state must choose to accept the allocation, and establish a plan to spend the funds. Pennsylvania has agreed to accept the funds, and designated PADEP as the lead agency. New Jersey has not yet taken action. The framework of the VW settlement, project types that are eligible to access these mitigation funds, and the timeline and potential strategies to apply for funds for the Greater Philadelphia Region were reviewed.

Michael Carroll, City of Philadelphia, asked about the application deadline and trust effective date, and whether the applications will be vetted through a competitive process. Mr. Greene noted that the DEP will use a competitive selection process and will have details on their website with application forms and other information. Byron Comati, SEPTA, commented that the criteria for selections may not make distinctions between beneficiaries and everyone could make the case for receiving funds. Mr. Greene noted that though we have not yet seen DEP’s mitigation strategy, it is important to try to get to the front of the line and make our applications attractive to them. Leslie Floyd, Mercer County, asked if these funds would be eligible for electric charging stations in Mercer County. Mr. Greene responded that VW will decide where the funding for charging stations will go but that Mercer County is not part of this CBA. Mercer County could be a part of the NY region’s CBA and DVRPC will get Ms. Floyd more details on this.

PRESENTATION ITEM

6. 2015 Travel Trends Report

Brad Lane, DVRPC Senior Transportation Engineer, Office of Modeling and Analysis, explained that this report assesses trends in auto vehicle trips and transit passenger trips in the Delaware Valley region. Data collected in 2015 is compared to the years 2000, 2005, and 2010.

Valerie Arkoosh, Montgomery County, asked if the model takes gasoline prices into account. Mr. Lane responded that this report really just looks at the facts and is not able to dig down to smaller variables. Michael Carroll, City of Philadelphia, asked if there is any information on vehicle occupancy in the report. Mr. Lane responded that for this report there is not.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. One Minute Reports

Rohan Hepkins, PATCO, reported that PATCO's new schedule started on April 24 and so far things are going smoothly.

Lou Millan, NJ Transit, reported that using CMAQ funds, NJ Transit is undergoing diesel retrofits.

Byron Comati, SEPTA, reported that SEPTA recently opened the new parking structure in Lansdale. Public hearings for the operational budget began for the five Pennsylvania counties on April 19 and ended April 25. The semi-annual fare increase hearings are upcoming. The capital budget hearings took place on April 26. Mr. Comati announced that after 25 years with SEPTA he is leaving to take a position with Amtrak. Mr. Comati thanked DVRPC staff for their work and support. Mr. Seymour thanked Mr. Comati for his service at SEPTA and partnership with DVRPC, and wished him well in his new endeavors.

Valerie Arkoosh, Montgomery County, thanked Mr. Comati for his work with SEPTA and the new garage in Lansdale. She noted that the garage is a building block and is already designed and ready to go to support TOD in that location.

Lou Cappelli, Camden County, reported that Camden County added the highest number of new jobs in the nation in the last year. The county has also begun the process of rehabbing four new parks.

Lynn Bush, Bucks County, thanked Mr. Comati for his work with SEPTA and collaboration with Bucks County and congratulated him on his new position.

Michelle Kichline, Chester County, thanked Mr. Comati and wished him well in his new role with Amtrak. The county will be undertaking the Landscapes 3 Comprehensive Plan update and there is a Commercial Landscapes symposium on June 7.

Michael Carroll, City of Philadelphia, thanked Mr. Comati and wished him well. Mr. Carroll reported that the city got through the budget hearings and Vision Zero came up a lot. There is more information on Vision Zero on the city's website and there is still time for public comments to be submitted.

Peter Rykard, City of Chester, reported that with the help of Delaware County and a match from the City of Chester, the county will be installing new bike racks. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be taking place soon.

Aliyah Furman, PA DCED, reported that the Greenway Trails and Recreation Program applications are due May 31. The TRID guidelines will be up this week as well.

7. Executive Director's Report

- a. NARC Transportation Policy Letter

Mr. Seymour noted that a copy of NARC's transportation policy letter can be found in the Board packets. The letter addresses infrastructure and funding and notes the essential role that MPOs can play.

b. NJ Transaction Conference

Mr. Seymour called the Board's attention to the NJ Transaction Conference which was held earlier in the month in Atlantic City. The conference drew over 1,000 participants and DVRPC staff had a strong presence at the event.

c. Fleets for the Future Workshop

Mr. Seymour reported that DVRPC hosted a Fleets for the Future workshop on April 10 in partnership with WashCOG. The workshop discussed alternative fuel vehicle procurement and the goal is to see substantial cost savings with procurement.

d. Regional Streetlight Procurement Program

Mr. Seymour announced that on May 1 DVRPC is holding a press conference to discuss and celebrate the installation of more than 26,000 upgraded LED streetlights in 35 municipalities. The event will offer details on energy savings, project savings, taxpayer cost savings, and information on this model and how it can be replicated by other municipalities.

e. GVF Award

Mr. Seymour noted that the Greater Valley Forge TMA has chosen DVRPC as the recipient of the Public Sector Leadership award.

f. Community Outreach and Service Award

Mr. Seymour called the Board's attention to the fact that DVRPC's Katrina Lawrence was awarded the Community Outreach and Service Award by the American Society of Civil Engineers (Philadelphia Section).

g. The Self-Navigating Region

Mr. Seymour reported that DVRPC will be hosting the Self-Navigating Region event at DVRPC offices on May 1 as part of Philly Tech Week. He encouraged Board members to attend.

h. Classic Towns Trolley Tour

Mr. Seymour announced that DVRPC will be hosting a Classic Towns Trolley Tour on May 19 in Cheltenham and Germantown. He noted that more information on the tour is in the Board packets.

i. Board Retreat 2017

Mr. Seymour noted that for the 2017 Board Retreat the thought was to hold the event in September instead of December. Instead of the large event that was held in 2016, the proposal is to hold a smaller event and include more focused discussion on our mission, priorities, and ideas for the Work Program. The retreat will likely be in Camden and could include a tour. Mr. Seymour asked Board members to consider this proposal and let him know their thoughts.

j. Air Quality Awareness Week

Mr. Seymour called the Board's attention to the fact that May 1-5 is Air Quality Awareness week. This is when DVRPC begins to forecast for ozone and do public outreach about air pollution. Mr. Seymour encouraged Board members to check out the new mobile-friendly website and see the list of air quality awardees.

k. New Releases

Mr. Seymour called the Board's attention to some new DVRPC releases including: TOD Opportunities, Networking Transportation, CMP Supplemental Project Status, Lawrence Township Environmental Resource Inventory, and Transportation Strategies every Municipality Should Consider.

13. Committee Reports

The following committee reports were provided for the Board's review:

- (1) Regional Technical Committee
- (2) Public Participation Task Force
- (3) Delaware Valley Goods Movement Task Force
- (4) Regional Community and Economic Development Forum

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was stated.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was stated.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. on a **MOTION** by Ms. Kichline, seconded by Ms. Bush.

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) 592-1800 or email public_affairs@dvrpc.org.

I certify that this is a true and correct copy.

Renee Wise, Recording Secretary