

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**  
**RELATED TO DVRPC BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

**September 27, 2018**

**Agenda Item:**

**2b. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Action**  
**NJ18-41: Thorndyke Street (Route 30/Admiral Wilson Boulevard to Marlton**  
**Pike) and Maplewood Street (Thorndyke Street to Somerset Street), (DB**  
**#D1904), City of Camden**

**From:** John Boyle

**County:** Philadelphia

**Zip Code:** 19102

**Date Received:** 09/21/2018

**Comment/Question:** Comments of the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia - Thorndyke and Maplewood Streets are adjacent to the pedestrian bridge over Admiral Wilson Blvd to Gateway Park. Improvements should include an multi-use trail along the right of way of Maplewood between Thorndyke and Rosemont Ave to improve community connections to the park and Circuit Trails.

**Response:** Thank you for your comment. Your original comment was forwarded to the DVRPC Board, DVRPC Office of Capital Programs, and City of Camden.

The City of Camden can accommodate the request as long as there is no adverse impact to residents and/or business owners. FY19 authorization of this project is not at risk of delay as a result of this accommodation.

**3a. FY 2019 Work Program Amendment: SolSmart Organizational Advisor  
Technical Assistance to Communities in PA and NJ**

**From:** Bill Sabey

**County:** Montgomery

**Zip Code:** 19462

**Date Received:** 09/22/2018

**Comment/Question:** Thank you for coordinating SolSmart across 9 municipalities. If others are interested can we join? We need to aggressively accelerate solar to decarbonize our reliance on fossil fuel sources. Ready for 100 MontCo is advocating 100% clean energy adoption within our municipalities. Please encourage municipalities to transition to renewable energy as soon as possible.

**Response:** Thank you for your comment. Your original comment was forwarded to the DVRPC Board and staff who are managing DVRPC's participation in the SolSmart Program.

Prior to submitting our proposal to The Solar Foundation's SolSmart Organizational Advisor RFP, DVRPC reached out to all local governments in the region to notify them of the opportunity to participate in DVRPC's response. The nine local governments participating in SolSmart were those that requested to be included in DVRPC's response to the RFP. DVRPC was granted that award to work as the SolSmart Advisor for those nine governments specifically. Our grant does not cover working with other governments. However, there are many SolSmart-related opportunities and resources that DVRPC will provide as part of our role as a SolSmart advisor that will be available to all local governments in the region. These include trainings on best practices for solar PV zoning, permitting, inspection, and fire safety, as well as template materials that local governments may use to implement streamlined solar permitting processes and solar zoning ordinances.

Even though DVRPC cannot accept more local governments into the current SolSmart Advisor group, all local governments can apply to receive SolSmart designation at any time. By applying for SolSmart designation, any local government will have access to free technical assistance through the SolSmart program. This technical assistance will be provided by national experts in the field. DVRPC encourages any municipality that wants to encourage growth in its local solar market to apply for SolSmart designation. Application instructions can be found here:

<https://www.solsmart.org/get-started/apply-for-designation/>

Lastly, DVRPC will work with our county governments to continue to promote SolSmart

designation and to make sure that municipalities are aware of the region-wide training opportunities that are provided by DVRPC. Please contact Adam Beam at [abeam@dvrpc.org](mailto:abeam@dvrpc.org) if you would like to be included on the distribution list for these opportunities.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**  
**RELATED TO DVRPC NON-ACTION ITEMS**

**From:** Marilyn Howarth  
**County:** NA  
**Zip Code:** NA  
**Date Received:** 09/19/2018

**Comment/Question:** As a member of the Chester Environmental Partnership and a physician at the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine's Center of Excellence in Environmental Toxicology I would like to remind you of an egregious example of environmental injustice that the DVRPC should address. For the past 8 years (that I am aware of) and possibly longer, residents of Chester, a low income predominantly African American community bisected by I-95 have been requesting site and sound barriers to protect their residents who live within 50 feet of the roadway. The asthma, lung cancer, and heart disease rates in Chester are much higher than surrounding communities. The air pollution from I-95 is a significant contributor to these health disparities. Barriers tend to re-direct pollutants up leading to more dilution and lessening the burden on the closest residents. The barriers were added to the long range plan but have not yet been constructed. I am not aware of anywhere else along the I-95 roadway where homes are so close to the road and lack these barriers. The appearance and effect of the lack of barriers in this circumstance is discrimination and environmental injustice both of which are contrary to your core values. I urge you to take action immediately.

**Response:** Thank you for your comment. Your original comment was forwarded to the DVRPC Board, DVRPC Office of Capital Programs, and PennDOT. A more detailed response is pending and will be sent to you in the coming weeks.

Dear Dr. Howarth and other members of the Chester Environmental Partnership,

Thank you for your comment. We have forwarded your original comment to DVRPC's Office of Capital Programs and the Manager of Air Quality Programs, as well as PennDOT District 6 staff. Your comment will be presented to the DVRPC Board at its next meeting, this Thursday, 9/27.

Given Chester Environmental Partnership's long history of advocating for barriers along I-95, we are coordinating a more detailed response with PennDOT and the City of Chester, which we hope to send to you next week. If you have additional questions, please contact [Alison Hastings, Manager of the Office of Communications & Engagement] ] at 215/238-2929 or [ahastings@dvrpc.org](mailto:ahastings@dvrpc.org).

Again, thank you for submitting your comment.

**From:** Bridget Chadwick  
**County:** NA  
**Zip Code:** NA  
**Date Received:** 09/26/2018

**Comment/Question:** DVRPC's map of "Energy and GHG Emissions Reduction Projects in Greater Philadelphia" appears to be out-of-date or incomplete. It shows only 2 solar sites on the NJ side of the DVRPC region and 4 sites on the PA side. Using the US Energy Information Administration's "US Energy Mapping System", found on their home page (bottom row), and zooming into the DVRPC region, we can see about 50 solar sites on the NJ side and about 9 sites on the PA side.

With renewable energy on the increase in the DVRPC region, supported by "clean" energy policies and the support of advocacy groups like the Sierra Club, and the DOE technical assistance SolSmart advisor grant, we know that the electric vehicle (EV) to gas vehicle (GV) carbon footprint will continue to widen.

I would like to see DVRPC provide a more up-to-date assessment or dashboard on the status of the energy mix in our region's electricity and its carbon intensity [gCO<sub>2</sub>/kWh] along with an analysis of EV to GV GHG emissions ratios. Based on data

Note: Based on a lifecycle analysis from the U.S. Department of Energy's Alternative Fuel Data Center (AFDC), an electrically fueled vehicle in Pennsylvania emits about 68% less GHG than a gasoline powered vehicle. Electric vehicles in New Jersey emit about 79% less than a gasoline powered vehicle.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Response:** Thank you for your comment. Your original comment was forwarded to the DVRPC Board and relevant DVRPC staff members. A more detailed response is pending.