



MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2002
10AM**

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

8th Floor—Main Conference Room

The Bourse Building, 111 South Independence Mall East, Philadelphia, PA 19106

1. Call to order

All Task Force members were recognized and the October 10, 2001 meeting notes were approved by the committee. A moment of silence was observed for Leon Maglowski of the Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association who recently passed away. It was noted that the scheduled guest speaker was forced to cancel his appearance (original agenda item #4: *Transportation and the Military*).

2. Conceptual Access Plan for the City of Chester

Stan Platt and Laurie Matkowski of DVRPC summarized a report which examined the highway access between I-95, I-476, and the Chester waterfront and CBD. The plan is designed to improve traffic flows, facilitate truck operations, and promote economic development. The study is indicative of DVRPC's treatment of these issues throughout the region. Copies of the final report are available upon request.

The Chester waterfront has sizable parcels of land that are slated for future development, including office space and residential housing. The waterfront continues to be an active industrial area, with several large employers who use Chester roadways to transport their goods. At the same time, the city also hopes to revive the central business district.

This study was undertaken to direct truck traffic generated at or destined to the Chester waterfront from the regional highway system along prescribed routes within Chester. The intent is to disperse traffic along a series of primary and secondary routes that in effect create a loop system in and around Chester. The plan seeks to capitalize on the recently opened PA 291.

The circulation plan attempts to separate truck and auto traffic, especially vehicular traffic destined to the CBD as distinguished from the traffic destined to the waterfront. The plan recommends signing and other physical improvements to encourage traffic to use the designated routes. Both short-term and long-term improvements are offered.

3. Pennsylvania 2002 Joint Rail Freight Seminar

Ted Dahlburg of DVRPC discussed planning efforts for the Pennsylvania 2002 Joint Rail Freight Seminar to be held in Philadelphia from May 8-10, 2002. This annual event, which is expected to attract 200 rail professionals and constituents, will take place at the Hyatt Regency Philadelphia at Penn's Landing.

The seminar is being hosted by DVRPC, the Pennsylvania Rail Freight Advisory Committee, and the Keystone State Railroad Association. The seminar was last held in Philadelphia in 1992. It is hoped that the seminar will attract many of Pennsylvania's 68 railroads, the state's newly appointed intermodal coordinators, and registrants from New Jersey, Delaware, New York, and Washington, D.C.

The seminar program is currently in draft and many specifics are still being worked out. According to current plans, Day 1 will primarily consist of golf (optional) and an evening reception. Day 2 will offer expert panels on security and finance, which will be followed by a unique Town Hall Forum with an open, question and answer format.

A real centerpiece of the seminar is a planned train excursion on the afternoon of Day 2. The excursion will pick up and discharge passengers at the hotel and traverse a 30 mile route through Philadelphia and its suburbs. Many rail and rail-served facilities will be visible. The excursion will employ locomotives and lounge cars of historic significance. An excursion booklet with maps is under preparation.

The final and third day will begin with a special presentation on the history and importance of railroading to Pennsylvania. This will be followed by expert panels on rail corridors and customer initiatives. Senator Arlen Specter has been invited to speak at the closing luncheon, which will also include the awarding of \$4,000 in scholarships.

4. Two-minute Reports

Task Force and Subcommittee chairs and Task Force members provided the following updates on the activities of their companies and agencies:

Liz Voras, John Brown, and Lugene Bastian: PennDOT Rail Freight Assistance Program; State Capital Budget; Rail Freight Video

John Coscia: DVRPC Annual Report; FY 2003 Work Program; Risk Management

Ted Dahlburg: Data Subcommittee

Kelvin MacKavanagh: Planning Subcommittee

Gary Shields: Shippers Subcommittee

Ray Heinzelmann: PPC Port Brochure

Bruce Hochman: Traffic Club of Philadelphia Annual Dinner

Jeff Sutch: John McCreavy's new position at SMS/Penn- Jersey Rail Lines

Additional reports addressed the following:

Eric Powers of New Jersey DOT introduced the Port Inland Distribution Network (PIDN) concept. With freight and container volumes projected to double in the next 10 years, the Port of New York and New Jersey is investigating strategies to improve freight movement between the port and surrounding areas. The PIDN would establish barge and/or rail linkages between the port and important related markets (, i.e., Dense Trade Clusters). A study is proposed to investigate the establishment of a PIDN facility in South Jersey. The study would evaluate PIDN development at six prospective sites in South Jersey, the impacts on future truck VMT, and the opportunity to create value added development around PIDN locations. It is suggested that DVRPC would create a steering committee and manage a consultant to perform the actual PIDN analysis.

Dave Hunt (Wilbur Smith Assoc.) and Jim Blair (Reebie Assoc.) provided a brief overview of the Wilmington-Harrisburg Freight Study which is now getting underway. PA 41 and US 30 are the principal transportation facilities in the corridor. The study methodology will include analyzing current volumes, forecasting growth, determining impacts, developing scenarios, and recommending actions. The project team consists of the Lancaster County Planning Commission, the project steering committee, and the following consultants: Wilbur Smith Assoc., Reebie Assoc., and Martin Assoc. Truck traffic (and its growth) and safety are of particular concerns. The study will be conducted over a 12 month time period and will result in a final report.

John Ward of DVRPC discussed New Jersey's upcoming *TransAction 2002* conference. TransAction, considered one of the nation's premier state transportation conferences, will be held in Atlantic City, New Jersey from April 15-17. Of the more than 50 scheduled panels, several deal directly with freight issues. Anyone with ideas for freight topics or speakers which pertain to South Jersey should contact DVRPC.

5. Old and New Business

The next meeting of the Delaware Valley Goods Movement Task Force is scheduled for April 10, 2002. Invited guest speaker is Gerhardt Muller of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and author of *Intermodal Freight Transportation*.

Attendees

Adams, Peggy
 Bastian, Lugene
 Belmonte, Kathy
 Blair, Jim
 Blanchard, Roy
 Boehm, Genevieve
 Boylan, James
 Brimmer, Mike
 Brown, John
 Charlton, Cecile
 Collins, Alan
 Coscia, John
 Coyle, Gerald
 Dahlburg, Ted
 D'Andrea, Hank
 Devlin, Ray
 Erickson, Tom
 Fetterolf, Eric
 Gemma, Tony
 Golden, Doug
 Hanssens, John
 Heinzelmann, Ray
 Henderson, Ed
 Hicks, Charnelle
 Hochman, Bruce
 Hunt, David
 Kirkpatrick, Michael
 Kwan, Donna
 Lagomarsino, Ray
 Luxenberg, Steve
 Lynch, Keith
 MacKavanagh, Kelvin
 May, Jeff
 McAuliffe, Dan
 McKinney, Jean
 Noe, Curt
 O'Brien, Dominic
 Payne, Bill
 Powers, Eric
 Powers, John
 Reeves, Mike
 Resta, Jim
 Richard, Don
 Rosen, Howard
 Runk, Jim
 Schmidt, Peggy
 Shields, Gary
 Sutch, Jeff
 Thomas, Carol
 Trachenko, Irina
 Voras, Liz
 Weiner, Harvey
 Wicklem, Greg
 Wilson, Larry
 Winkler, Fred
 Zakutny, John

Affiliation

Port of Bucks
 PennDOT
 DVRPC
 Reebie Associates
 Blanchard Co.
 New Jersey DOT
 Tyburn Railroad
 CSXT
 PennDOT
 Delaware County TMA
 Urban Engineers
 DVRPC
 Evans Delivery Co.
 DVRPC
 South Jersey Port Corporation
 PIDC
 Rail Cents
 City of Gloucester
 Roadway Express
 Main Line Management
 Philadelphia International Airport
 DRPA
 Philadelphia Regional Port Authority
 CHPlanning, Ltd.
 Traffic Club of Philadelphia
 Wilbur Smith Associates
 Delaware DOT
 Subsidiary Railroads of Bethlehem Steel Corp.
 UPS
 WILMAPCO
 FTA
 Consultant-CSX
 Urban Engineers
 Tasty Baking Co.
 DVRPC
 Camden County
 Philadelphia Regional Port Authority
 City of Chester
 New Jersey DOT
 New Jersey DOT
 SJTPO
 City of Chester
 Brandywine Valley Railroad
 ALK Technologies
 Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association
 Partnership TMA
 Subsidiary Railroads of Bethlehem Steel Corp.
 SMS/Penn-Jersey Rail Lines
 Burlington County Engineers Office
 Port of Bucks
 PennDOT
 Dependable Distribution
 Keystone State Railroad Assoc.
 City of Philadelphia
 Winchester and Western Railroad
 Pasha Auto Warehousing