



## **MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

**10AM, Wednesday, July 10, 2002**

**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**

Co-chairs Elizabeth Voras of PennDOT and John Coscia of DVRPC called the meeting to order. All Task Force members were recognized and the April 10, 2002 meeting notes were approved by the committee.

### **2. FY 2003 CMAQ Competitive Program**

Charles Dougherty described the upcoming round (FY 2003) of the DVRPC CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement) Program. Over \$12 million in federal funds (\$9.6 million for PA and \$3 million for NJ) will be available on a competitive basis for projects that can help the region reduce harmful emissions from transportation-related sources.

Candidate projects are to be submitted to DVRPC and they will then be reviewed for initial eligibility and merits. Projects that survive this screening process will then be subjected to an air quality emissions analysis. Several types of projects which are beneficial to freight movement are eligible for CMAQ funds, and the freight community is encouraged to submit candidate projects.

A subcommittee of the Regional Transportation Committee will help oversee the CMAQ program. The Goods Movement Task Force's Planning Subcommittee will be asked to designate one goods movement representative to serve on the CMAQ subcommittee. Ultimately, the CMAQ subcommittee will submit a list of project recommendations to the DVRPC Board.

The deadline for filing an application for the CMAQ program is November 1. Also, a public information session will be held at 10AM on September 27 in the DVRPC conference center to answer any questions about the application process. CMAQ application forms and program guidance will be available on the DVRPC website at: [www.dvrpc.org](http://www.dvrpc.org)



**3. Delaware County Highway-Railroad Grade Crossing Study**

Ted Dahlburg and Kathy Belmonte provided a status report of a DVRPC study which will lead to the development of a capital improvement program for a series of highway-railroad grade crossings on a major CSX line which traverses Delaware County. The line carries 30 trains a day through intensely developed areas, and has 11 at-grade road crossings. There are many examples of grade crossing initiatives and programs throughout the country, such as the Alameda Corridor, the Seattle FAST Corridor program, Michigan, North Carolina, and Ohio.

Traffic volumes range from 3,500 to 18,000 vehicles per day at the crossings in the study area. One crossing, Main Street in Darby Borough, is very unique because it is traversed by a SEPTA trolley route. Eight of the crossings are state-owned highways, and most possess a full array of warning devices.

The next steps of the study will entail completing data and accident collection efforts and meeting with each of the affected municipalities. A technical analysis of various improvement scenarios will also be performed using FRA's GradeDec 2000 software package. This project is a two year effort through FY 2003.

**4. "What If" Planning Scenarios**

Jienki Synn presented a set of "What if" planning scenarios that are being used to help DVRPC frame its development of a long-range plan for the year 2030. This initiative has been undertaken with the participation of the DVRPC Board Policy Analysis Committee.

The "What if" scenarios are focused on questions that could influence the scope and nature of the regional transportation plan. The scenarios address the likelihood and implications of such occurrences as: the 2025 Plan prevails, the urban core repopulates, the regional economy intensifies, in-migration increases, and a "green" region is emphasized.

Next, the scenarios are to be simulated using regional and transportation demand models. The Goods Movement Task Force will be kept apprized of the development of the scenarios and the long range plan and of opportunities to provide input.

**5. Transportation Funding: What the Future Holds**

Senator Roger A. Madigan, Chairman of the Pennsylvania State Senate Transportation Committee, was the keynote guest speaker. Elected to the state Senate in 1984, Senator Madigan represents the 23<sup>rd</sup> Senatorial District which includes Bradford, Tioga, Lycoming, Sullivan, and Union counties.

The position of Chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee is very challenging. Pennsylvania continues to have more needs than available infrastructure, traffic volumes continue to grow, and transportation facilities have been converted into rolling storage for businesses across the country.



Fortunately, in Pennsylvania, the state source of highway and bridge funding, the Motor License Fund, is protected. Elsewhere, states are often forced to fight against competing interests for transportation dollars.

Infrastructure must be funded in ways that reflect the cost of and benefit of these systems to society in general. It is important to speak publicly about the importance of transportation funding in a unified voice. In particular, it is important to be heard regarding the reauthorization of the federal transportation bill that is due in 2004. An intermodal approach to transportation should be emphasized. All of the Goods Movement Task Force members are invited to contact Senator Madigan.

## 6. 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	2002 Pennsylvania Joint Rail Freight Seminar; state rail plan update; Federal Register request for comments regarding TEA-21 reauthorization
John Powers	New Jersey DOT personnel changes
John Coscia	DVRPC FY 2003 TIP adoption; RFP for New Jersey PIDN study; Congressional testimony on Intermodalism
Ted Dahlburg	Data Subcommittee
Kelvin MacKavanagh	Planning Subcommittee
Gary Shields	Shippers Subcommittee; Brandywine Valley Railroad upgrade
Ray Heinzelmann	Re-analysis of the Delaware River dredging project
Carmine Fiscina	CSX clearance project in Philadelphia and Bucks County
Dave Hunt	Wilmington-Harrisburg freight study
Ed Henderson	Acquisition of new cranes for Packer Avenue Marine Terminal
Bruce Hochman	Traffic Club of Philadelphia events

## 7. Old and New Business

The tenth anniversary of the Goods Movement Task Force will be observed at the October 9, 2002 meeting. Lance Grenzeback of Cambridge Systematics is the scheduled guest speaker. The meeting was adjourned, and a light lunch was served.

## 8. Intermodal Freight Video

An educational video produced by the Federal Highway Administration on how to include freight in the transportation planning process was shown. Entitled *Planning for Progress*, the video includes cameo appearances by several experts familiar to the Goods Movement Task Force; namely, Rick Crawford (Norfolk Southern) Gerald Rawling (Chicago MPO), and Jocelyn Jones (Baltimore MPO). The video, which is approximately 13 minutes in length, contains a segment that highlights DVRPC's *Freight Forward* program.

<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Abrams, Yusef	Delaware County TMA
Bastian, Lugene	PennDOT
Belmonte, Kathy	DVRPC
Binck, Chris	Bergmann Associates
Blair, Jim	Reebie Associates
Boylan, James	Tyburn Railroad
Brimmer, Mike	CSXT
Brown, Greg	PennDOT
Brown, John	PennDOT
Carolan, Tom	Green Field Transport
Chang, David	University of Pennsylvania
Charlton, Cecile	Delaware County TMA
Collard, Tom	Southern Railroad of New Jersey
Coscia, John	DVRPC
Coyle, Gerald	Evans Delivery Co.
Dahlburg, Ted	DVRPC
D'Andrea, Hank	South Jersey Port Corporation
Davis, Talvin	New Jersey DOT
Duffy, Ed	PIDC, Food Distribution Center
Fiscina, Carmine	FHWA, Philadelphia Metro. Office
Gemma, Tony	Roadway
Golden, Doug	Main Line Management
Green, Walt	PA Turnpike Commission
Hanssens, John	Philadelphia International Airport
Hayes, Linda	DRPA
Heinzelmann, Ray	DRPA
Henderson, Ed	PRPA
Hicks, Charnelle	CHPlanning
Hirsch, Jeff	MARAD
Hochman, Bruce	Traffic Club of Philadelphia
Hunt, David	Wilbur Smith Associates
Kirkpatrick, Michael	Delaware DOT
LoCastro, Joseph	Eastern/GPS
MackKavanagh, Kelvin	Railroad Consultant
Madigan, Senator Roger	Senate of Pennsylvania
McAuliffe, Daniel	DNM Logistics
McCreavy, John	SMS/Penn-Jersey Rail Lines
Murray, Chris	Schneider National
Packer, Herb	PennPORTS
Powers, Eric	New Jersey DOT
Powers, John	New Jersey DOT
Reid, David	Novolog
Reeves, Mike	SJTPO
Renner, Robert	Haines & Kibblehouse
Runk, Jim	PA Motor Truck Association
Shanis, Donald	DVRPC
Shields, Gary	Subsidiary Railroads of Bethlehem Steel Corp.
Shuey, Craig	PA Senate Transportation Committee
Sutch, Jeff	SMS/Penn-Jersey Rail Lines
Thomas, Carol	Burlington County
Torrey, David	Westgate Transportation
Valle, Janine	PA Motor Truck Association
Voras, Elizabeth	PennDOT
Weiner, Harvey	Dependable Distribution
Wicklem, Greg	Keystone State Railroad Association
Wilson, Larry	Philadelphia Office of Strategic Planning
Winkler, Fred	Winchester and Western Railroad
Zakutny, John	The PASHA Group