



## **QUARTERLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

**10AM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2005**

Coffee was available at 9:30AM. A light lunch was served immediately following the meeting.

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission  
8th Floor—Main Conference Room  
The Bourse Building, 111 South Independence Mall East, Philadelphia, PA

Note: PowerPoint presentations by guest speakers are posted in the freight section of the DVRPC website.

### **1. Call to order**

Task Force Co-Chair John Coscia called the meeting to order. All Task Force members were recognized and the October 20, 2004 meeting notes were approved by the committee. Mr. Coscia welcomed staff from DVRPC's sister agency in Atlanta, the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), and members of ARC's freight advisory committee. These guests were participating in a two day peer exchange on freight planning at which ARC and DVRPC staff are sharing successes and experiences. (Note: staff from the Volpe Center facilitated the peer exchange and will prepare a summary report.)

It was noted that Toby Fauver has been promoted to Bureau Director of Public Transportation at PennDOT. His interim replacement at the Rail Freight Bureau is Tony McCloskey.

### **2. 2030 Long Range Plan**

Michael Boyer of DVRPC reported on the status of the preparation of a 2030 transportation plan for the region. Adoption of the plan is slated for June, 2005. Copies of the *Destination 2030: A Vision for the Future* report were distributed. This report lays out a vision and goals for each of eight issues: Growth Management, Urban Revitalization, The Environment, Economic Development, Transportation Facilities, Transportation Operations, Transportation Finance, and Equity and Opportunity.

Ted Dahlburg also distributed a list of regionally significant rail freight and port projects which were assembled through the efforts of the Goods Movement Task Force's Planning Subcommittee (Kelvin MacKavanagh, Chair). The rail freight and port projects complement the sets of highway and transit projects which have also been identified. In general, the projects promote increased capacities, efficiencies, and intermodal connectivity.

### **3. “Flex” of Federal Highway Funds to SEPTA for Operating Budget Relief**

DVRPC’s Director of Transportation, Don Shanis, explained PennDOT’s request to flex \$9.8 million of federal highway funds to the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) from the FY 2005 TIP as part of a short-term solution to the agency’s operating budget problems. SEPTA faces a \$62 million deficit for FY 2005, with a projected \$92 million deficit next fiscal year.

The crisis stems in part from rising costs and less state aid than anticipated over the last decade. In fact, funding shortfalls are projected for all transit operators in the Commonwealth. A viable long term funding mechanism for the state’s transit systems has not yet been identified.

In order for PennDOT to flex highway funds to SEPTA, a number of steps must be taken. One of the critical steps is for the DVRPC Board to decide how it wants to use new Oil Company Franchise Tax funds and whether to defer or drop projects. As the Board directs, the DVRPC Regional transportation Committee would prepare and recommend a set of projects to defer or drop.

### **4. Freight Planning Initiatives in the Atlanta Region**

Jane Hayse, Transportation Planning Division Chief, discussed ARC’s freight planning initiatives. In a high growth region presently consisting of 3.7 million persons and as a major distribution hub, freight is a very important planning consideration.

The ARC freight advisory committee meets quarterly and, in a relatively short period of time, has achieved many accomplishments, such as the identification of freight corridors, bottlenecks, and studies and projects. In addition, ARC has instituted several mechanisms to further incorporate freight into the TIP and long range plan. In the coming years, ARC will be undertaking the development of a major Regional Goods and Services Plan.

### **5. Delaware River Main Channel Deepening Project**

LTC Robert J. Ruch, USACE Philadelphia District Commander, discussed details about the proposed deepening of the Delaware River’s main channel from 40 feet to 45 feet. The talk emphasized the balanced theme of: *Making way for our ports... Taking care of our watershed.*

The deepening of the channel is needed to maintain the competitiveness of the local ports. Virtually all other East Coast ports have main channel depths greater than 40 feet, and several have plans in place to further deepen their channels.

Dredged materials can be beneficially used. For example, one local application would be as site preparation at the Philadelphia Naval Business Center. Pennsylvania has recently agreed to a more equitable division of the dredged materials that would result from the deepening project.

Many significant development projects are foreseen along or near the Delaware River in the near future. Several entail the expansion or reuse of port facilities (e.g., a SJPC Paulsboro site, PRPA’s Southport, and the Crown Landing LNG facility). These projects will promote additional ship activity on the Delaware River, and may have landside infrastructure impacts.

## **6. Two-minute Reports**

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

Ran Marshall	PennDOT; <i>Economic Benefits of Rail</i> report
Jim Badgley	New Jersey DOT; state freight plan; rail assistance program
Michael Kirkpatrick	Delaware DOT; Feb. 22 rail freight forum; CVISN
John Coscia	DVRPC; Board Retreat Freight Panel; Special Freight Newsletter; Annual Awards Dinner (June 7, 2005); relocation of offices
Ted Dahlburg for Fred Abousleman	NARC Freight Summit
Rick Crawford	Data Subcommittee; <i>2004 Freight Facts and Figures</i> report
Kelvin MacKavanagh	Planning Subcommittee; DVRPC PCC/RTC; NJ TransAction conference
Ted Dahlburg for Edward King	Shippers Subcommittee; TRB Freight Background Paper
Bob Kessler	Traffic Club of Philadelphia
Mark Cassel	March 9 Transportation Summit
Tony Murray	Multi-Modal HAZMAT training seminar
Spencer Stevens	FHWA; TEA-21 reauthorization; <i>Talking Freight</i> web series

## **7. Old/New Business**

The next scheduled meeting of the Delaware Valley Goods Movement Task Force is Friday, April 15, 2005. The meeting was adjourned.

**Meeting Participants**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Affiliation</u></b>
Badgley, James	NJ DOT Freight Services
Belke, Carl	Patrick Engineering
Blair, Jim	Reebie Assoc.
Breeman, Paul	Holt Logistics
Cassel, Mark	TMA of Chester County
Collard, Tom	Southern Railroad of New Jersey
Coscia, John	DVRPC
Coyle, Gerard	Evans Delivery Co.
Crawford, Rick	Norfolk Southern Corp.
Christner, Paul	Volpe Center
Cuccia, Brian	NJDOT
Dahlburg, Ted	DVRPC
Denmark, Roy	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Duffy, Ed	PIDC
Erickson, Tom	Rail Cents Enterprises
Fesen, Michael	Norfolk Southern Corp.
Fisher, Kevin	Nexus Dist./PMTA
Fisk, Steve	Canadian Pacific Railway
Foster, Karin	Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Gemma, Tony	Roadway Express
Golden, Doug	Main Line Management
Gonzalez, Carlos	FHWA
Hayes, Linda	DRPA
Hayse, Jane	Atlanta Regional Commission
Heinzelmann, Ray	Gahagan & Bryant Assoc.
Howerd, Tineen	NJ DOT
Johnson, Sterling	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jones, Jocelyn	FHWA
Kenny, Tom	Delaware Avenue Distribution
Kessler, Bob	Hub Group
Kirkpatrick, Michael	DELDOT
Krakauer, Miki	NJ DOT Freight Services
Lee, Joung	FHWA
Le Grand, Adelee	URS Corporation
LoCastro, Joe	Eastern/GPS
MacKavanagh, Kelvin	MacKavanagh Railroad Consulting
Marshall, Caroline	Atlanta Regional Commission
Marshall, Ran	PennDOT
May, Jeff	Urban Engineers
McCreavy, John	SMS Rail Lines
McGowan, Gerry	UPS
McQueen, Tom	Georgia DOT
McQuilken, Jim	DRPA
Meyer, Mike	Georgia Tech
Murray, Anthony	US DOT HAZMAT Safety
Narayanan, Janani	Philadelphia City Planning Commission
Pawson, John	DVRPC Regional Citizens Committee
Pertierra, Bob	Atlanta Metro Chamber of Commerce
Powers, Eric	NJ DOT
Powers, John	NJ DOT Freight Services
Regan, Terry	Volpe Center
Riley, Mike	NJ DOT Office of Maritime Resources

Rosen, Howard	Rosen Consulting
Ruch, Bob (LTC)	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Runk, Jim	PA Motor Truck Association
Sauter, Anselm	Greater Phila. Chamber of Commerce
Schafer, Bill	Norfolk Southern Corp.
Schell, Matt	Greater Valley Forge TMA
Shanis, Donald	DVRPC
Spera, Dave	PA Motor Truck Association
Stevens, Spencer	FHWA
Sussman, Michael	Strategic Rail Finance
Sutch, Jeff	SMS Rail Lines
Thomas, Carol	Burlington County
Thompson, Fawn	FHWA
Truban, Paul	NJ DOT/Freight Services
Voight, Ed	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Wall, Brian	PennDOT
Walsh, Nick	Phila. Regional Port Authority
Weiner, Harvey	Dependable Distribution
Wells, Tim	LTK Engineering Services
Wicklem, Greg	Keystone State Railroad Association
Yost, Steve	Georgia DOT