

**DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
INFORMATION RESOURCE EXCHANGE GROUP
Minutes of September 8, 2004**

Location: DVRPC, Bourse Building, 111 S. Independence Mall East, 8th Floor

Attendance:

Name:	Title:	Organization:	E-mail Address:
Joe Spollen	GIS Consultant	Aqua Pennsylvania	jfspollen@aquaaamerica.com
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James Cartwright	Program Manager	City of Philadelphia MOIS	james.cartwright@phila.gov
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Taghi Ozbeki	Manger, Department of Information Services	DVRPC	tozbeki@dvrpc.org
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Tom McGettigan	Economist	US Department of Labor BLS	mcgettigan_t@bls.gov

The 52nd meeting of the Information Resource Exchange Group was called to order at 10:05 am. The Chairman asked attendees to introduce themselves.

1. Minutes of the meeting of June 9, 2004

The minutes were approved without corrections or changes.

2. Presentations

James Cartwright, Program Manager for the City of Philadelphia Mayor's Office of Information Services gave a presentation on the City of Philadelphia's latest initiative, Wireless Philadelphia. In June 2004, high-speed wireless internet was made available for free to visitors of "Love Park" (15th-16th, JFK to Arch Streets). Shortly, the mayor will announce expansion of this service along the Benjamin Franklin Parkway corridor to Boathouse Row (over one mile). The City has ambitious plans to eventually offer wireless internet throughout the entire City, using antennas mounted atop municipally owned streetlights.

Mick Boyer, Manager of Long Range Transportation Planning at DVRPC, gave a presentation on "Destination 2030: The Long Range Land Use and Transportation Plan for the Delaware Valley". Although many IREG members represent agencies that have been involved in DVRPC's Planning Process in the past, this is the first time that the group has been directly addressed about how our process works and how to get involved in our Long Range Plan.

Taghi Ozbeki, Manager of Information Services at DVRPC, demonstrated three web-based applications that DVRPC staff had developed over the past months. The IREG Directory Application allows committee members to update their contact information online. The DVRPC Publication Database, which has been on our website for several years, is now fully database driven, streamlining the work required to maintain the publication abstracts and the website in general. The Air Quality Partnership Announce List is an email alert system that allows DVRPC staff to remotely send out alerts on poor air quality days while keeping a good working relationship with our partner Transportation Management Associations (TMAs) by co-branding the announcements.

3. Potential FY 2006 Work Program Projects

Based upon the voting that took place at the last quarterly IREG meeting in June, two projects are being forwarded to the Board Work Program Committee for consideration in the Fiscal Year 2006 DVRPC Work Program. One is entitled "Regional Photo Repository" and would fund the development of a searchable database of images, indexed by state, county, municipality, and keywords, that would be available to DVRPC staff and member governments. The other, entitled "DVRPC Report Database Development" would fund preliminary work on scanning older hard-copy reports published by DVRPC for the inclusion in a full-text searchable web database of reports. Ultimately, staff and member governments would be able to search on any word in any report we have ever produced.

4. Census Update

- a. **American Community Survey (ACS).** U.S. Census Bureau released ACS 2003 on August 26, 2004. The data is for the nation, states, counties, and places with population over 250,000. You can download the data from ACS website:
<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/Profiles/Single/2003/ACS/index.htm> .
- b. **CTPP/Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZ).** Census Bureaus complete the release of Part 3 Journey to Work in flat ASCII file in April 2004. Data can be downloaded from <Http://www.bts.gov> . The CTPP Access Tool for CTPP200 Part 3 will be released in October.

- c. **2003 Population Estimates.** 2003 Place and County Subdivision Population Estimates were released on June 24 2004. The updated Data Bulletin on 2003 Population Estimates is free for download at <http://www.dvrpc.org/data/databull/rdb/db77.htm> .
- d. **Historical Censuses and Statistical Compendia (CB04-85)** The Census Bureau has made many historical census documents and volumes of the Statistical Compendia accessible online <http://www.census.gov/prod/www/titles.html> . The historical documents are image files that are not searchable, but do include indexes and tables of contents.
- e. **108th Congressional District Relationship Tables** The Census Bureau has developed a set of tables that provide the relationships of the 108th congressional districts to many of the geographic areas identified by the Census Bureaus. Tables are available at: <http://www.census.gov/geo/www/cd108th/tables108.html> .
- f. **2002 Vehicle Inventory and Use Survey (SUV Registrations)** The Census Bureau published the state reports with information on fuel efficiency, annual mileage, primary range of operation, permanent equipment, and other physical and operational characteristics on pickup trucks, SUV, minivans, and all other single-unit trucks and truck-tractors. Reports can be found at <http://www.census.gov/svsd/www/02vehinv.html>. However, reports on PA and NJ are not available yet.
- g. **Current Population Survey (CPS) Unemployment Update** From Census Bureau's monthly Current Population Survey (CPS), the country's official unemployment rate was 5.5 percent in July 2004. Starting on August 15 2004, CPS will be conducting interviews with 78,000 households. More data will be available shortly.
- h. **Local Employment Dynamics** LED program provides employment information on quarterly base at county and sub county level. 2003-second quarter data is currently available at <http://lehd.dsd.census.gov/led/00/index.html>. Currently, LED has released the profile of older workers at state level. These reports focus on older workers by industry, their age, job gains and losses, the industries in which they are concentrated, job stability and earnings. Reports on PA and NJ are not available at this point. LED is also developing templates that WIBs and employers can use for quick answers to common questions. LED would like to have some comments before they release the beta. You can test the prototypes at <http://lehd4.dsd.census.gov/> . This application will be available for public on September 15.
- i. **Income, Poverty, Health Insurance (CPS Report)** The Census Bureau released the reports on 2003 money income, poverty, and health insurance data from both source Current Population Survey and American Community Survey. On August 26 2004, Census Bureau held a news conference at Suitland, Maryland to talk about what's the different between these two sources and which report to use for data analyst. This conference was also webcasted. You can watch the video presentations with RealPlayer or Windows Media. For more info, please visit: <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2004/2004IncomePov.html> .

5. DVRPC Work Program Updates

- a. **Regional Online Information Network.** Other than the projects Mr. Ozbeki has mentioned in his presentation, DVRPC also partner with the PennDOT to sponsor a "Share the Road Campaign". This project is designed to educate both motorists and bicyclist about the rights and responsibilities. A web video is available at <http://www.share-the-road.org/> .

- b. **Census Transportation Planning Package (CTPP).** The Census Bureau released CTPP part 3 (Journey-to-work) in flat ASCII file in April 2004. The dataset are available at County-to-County, Place-to-Place, and Zone/Tract-to-Zone/Tract level. As part of Census Bureau's disclosures avoidance process, five of fourteen data tables have been subjected to threshold or minimum size criterion for each worker flow. This means that whenever there are only one or two sample respondents for that area-to-area commuter flow, the values for these five tables will be set to zero. Therefore, there are serious data losses at TAZ or Tract level. DVRPC Staffs are working with Census Bureaus to fix this problem. DVRPC staff also developed an application to analyze the data at MCD level. If you would like a report on any specific MCD, we can create the report for you free of charge.
- c. **Year 2005 Aerial Imagery Acquisition.** The 2005 Imagery Acquisition Vendor Selection Committee has begun the review process of the proposals that were submitted in response to the RFP. A short-list of prospective vendors will be asked to present their proposals to the Committee. Negotiations will be initiated with the top-ranked firm after the presentations. And upon agreeing to terms, the contract for the project will be awarded to that top-ranked firm. We anticipate this process to be concluded by the end of September 2004.
- d. **Region-Wide Transportation GIS Development.** DVRPC staff has finished four weeks of training: One week of Intro to ArcGIS I and II, and three weeks of customized geo-database and linear referencing systems. Four counties have finished the State Route Linear Referencing System (LRS) implementation, and three counties are about to finish the project.
- e. **Land Use and Transportation Models.** DVRPC is currently working with staff at the University of California to calibrate their transportation models for the DVRPC region. Contact Tom Walker 215-238-2886 for more information regarding this project.
- f. **Regional Transit Database.** A Regional Transit Database is being developed to store transit station information, such as parking and station amenities. In the future, this information will be published online and accessible via an Online GIS transit layer. Contact Joseph Hacker at 215-238-2935 for more information.

6. Information Items

- a. MAC URISA will hold a GIS Certification Workshop on September 30, 2004 at the EcoComplex in Bordentown NJ. Please contact Angela Witcher at 609-633-2169 for more information.
- b. NJ State Data Center Conference will be held on December 2.
- c. PA State Data Center Conference will be held on September 16 at the Harrisburg Holiday Inn.

7. Old Business

No old business was presented at this time.

8. New Business

- a. The next IREG Newsletter will be available in December.
- b. Members can update their contact info online: <http://www.dvrpc.org/asp-files/ireg/iregindex.asp>
- c. The next IREG Meeting will be hold in Trenton, NJ on December 8, 2004.

9. Adjournment

The IREG meeting was adjourned at 12:10pm. The Webmasters Subcommittee met 12:45pm.