Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Information Resource Exchange Group

Highlights from meeting of Wednesday, September 5, 2012

The 84th meeting of the Information Resources Exchange Group (IREG) took place on Wednesday, September 5, 2012 at SEPTA Headquarters, 1234 Market Street, Philadelphia PA. About twenty people were in attendance. Highlights from the June 13th meeting were available as a handout and on the internet.

Presentation

Mike Zaleski, Director Emerging and Specialty Technology, SEPTA gave an overview of various technologies being developed for and by SEPTA. SEPTA hosted their second hackathon (www.AppsForSEPTA.org) in August 2012, where a number of external computer applications (apps for short) were developed, using data provided by SEPTA. The *Route Finder* app (http://etorbi.com/septa/) allows users to click on their location (or when using a location-enabled device like a smartphone, 'find' your location) and a list of nearby routes are displayed, along with links to printed schedules, nearby bus stops, and estimated locations for the nearest busses. The *Schedule Simulator* uses General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS) data for published regional rail service, and will similate where any train is on their system at a given time. Users can watch all the trains as they move throughout the day. Users are also able to change the time at any given station, and the app will simulate how that change will look like. For SEPTA's Control Center, this is a helpful tool that fits a need. Changes can be saved to a file for future reference. The *Philly Transit Map* (www3.septa.org/philly-transit-map/), which is still a work in progress, is a single map that shows everything transportation-related in Philadelphia, including: Google Traffic, all SETPA bus, trolley and regional rail lines, PennDOT cameras, car share pods, and the regional bicycle network. Users can also look at archive data for Amtrak, PATCO, and NJ Transit (to see how these services interact in the city). In the future, real-time flight data from PHL International, photo-enhanced intersections.

Some internal apps that are being developed for the benefit of SEPTA Control Center staff were also presented, such as the train view app, which shows the number of trains that are on time or late, yard starts and quits, and timing of trains at various control points and interlockings. Each rail line departure can be viewed with scheduled, estimated and actual times. Train dispatchers can communicate with each other and yard masters using a chat button built into this app. A bus app gives a system-wide look at all bus detours, bus stops, and a list of all vehicles and their current status. All internal apps are being developed for use with touch-enabled tablets, like the iPad.

Mike created a link page for all that was presented, which for the time being is still accessible at www3.septa.org/mikez/

Tour

Jack Power, Deputy Chief of SEPTA's Control Center lead the tour on the operations center.

CY 2013 Meeting Dates

The following meeting dates have been confirmed for 2013: March 6, June 5, September 11 and December 11, with one of the meetings expected to be held at the Philadelphia Regional Office of the U.S. Census Bureau.

Member Updates

- The Census Bureau released its first-ever mobile app *America's Economy* combines statistics from the Census Bureau, Bureau of Economic Analysis, and Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/miscellaneous/cb12-149.html).
- DVRPC recently launched the Community Investment Index (CI^2) web-based mapping app for location-based investments (www.dvrpc.org/ci2/).
- DVRPC 2010 Land Use cleanup will be completed this Fall.
- Mayor Nutter appointed Mark Headd as the City's first Chief Data Officer (CDO) http://cityofphiladelphia.wordpress.com/2012/09/06/mayor-nutter-appoints-first-chief-data-officer/
- MAC-URISA 2012 will be held in Atlantic City, October 22-24th. www.macurisa.org/2012
- NJ Government Webmasters will be meeting on 10/12 (Sussex County) and 12/7 (Burlington County) www.gowpronj.net
- Northwest PA GIS Conference will take place 10/18-19/2012 in Clarion PA www.clarion.edu/330395/
- It was sadly reported that Ken Sipos, a former Chair and longtime dedicated member of IREG passed away. Ken, a Real Estate Specialist with the City of Philadelphia, had the unique distinction of officiating 8 committee meetings between 2004-2006.
- The next IREG meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 12th at DVRPC.