



September 12, 2013 Meeting Highlights

Attendees: Lorraine Bradshaw, David Cohen, Nancy DeLucia, Harry Fox, Aissia Richardson, Andrew Seligsohn, Jim Hopkins, Joyce Smith, Theresa Ziegler (PPTF Members); Andy Sharpe, Dennis Winters, Christine Fisher (Guests); Barry Seymour, Candace Snyder, Jane Meconi, Gregory Krykewycz (Staff)

Welcome and Meeting Overview

Candace Snyder, DVRPC Director of Public Affairs, welcomed members and guests to the PPTF meeting and reviewed meeting procedures. Jim Hopkins, PPTF Chair, facilitated the meeting.

Looking Forward to FY 2014: PPTF and DVRPC Activities

Barry Seymour, DVRPC Executive Director, thanked PPTF members for their time and engagement, and launched a discussion on upcoming PPTF activities and priorities. As the PPTF evolves and grows, it is always a necessity that members are able to share their expertise and interests with DVRPC, help shape the public participation program at DVRPC, and feel that the time dedicated to the PPTF is worthwhile. Activities for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 include:

- **Work Program proposals:** The DVRPC Annual Work Program lists all activities that DVRPC undertakes in a year. While the DVRPC Board determines what projects are included in the Work Program, there are opportunities for PPTF members to propose a project—what should DVRPC be working on? What types of activities can enhance current programs? Aissia Richardson presented some ideas on investigating community gardens and their impact on local and regional food systems.
 - Jane Meconi will send out some examples of Work Program projects. Proposal ideas need to be submitted to DVRPC by October 1, 2013.
 - Candace Snyder noted to the audience that anyone, including members of the public, can submit ideas for Work Program proposals.
- **Connections 2040 Long-Range Plan:** While the plan was adopted by the DVRPC Board in July, the next step is to continue to get the word out and reach out to new audiences to promote the plan. The PPTF can be instrumental in helping DVRPC engage new audiences, find new opportunities to present the plan, and help refine a compelling message to the public. This will be an ongoing effort through the year.

- PPTF special event planning: An outcome of previous PPTF discussion was the desire for members to plan a special event, or series of events, to help generate a lively discussion of regional issues. In the coming weeks, PPTF members can suggest and prioritize potential topics for these events. Suggestions discussed at the meeting include stormwater management and how regions address this infrastructure issue, inviting Myron Orfield to discuss metropolitan-level decision-making and how local decision-making can influence/impact a region, or present a discussion with Paul Jargowsky, a professor at Rutgers-Camden, on inequality, and how segregation and geographic concentrations of poverty impact a region.
 - DVRPC staff will request PPTF members to submit topics and descriptions of potential events. A poll will be conducted for members to prioritize the topics, and planning will begin. An event will be scheduled for January or February.

DVRPC Office of Transit, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Planning

Gregory Krykewycz, AICP/PP, Manager, DVRPC Office of Transit, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Planning, presented an overview of the unit. A primary focus for the unit is the relationship between these three modes of transportation, and the opportunities to bring more sustainable practices to the transportation environment. Another issue, related particularly to public transit, is a lack of funding that may severely constrain future transit operations.

Work in this DVRPC unit includes:

- Individual planning studies: Discrete transit/bike/pedestrian planning projects requested by our partners and member governments.
- Regional analysis and priority setting: Develop tools and perform analysis to understand and prioritize transit/bike/pedestrian issues and needs from a regional perspective.
- Project selection for CHSTP programs: Convene counties and transit agencies to solicit, score, and select projects on a regular basis.

Mr. Krykewycz presented several recent and current projects, such as:

- The Norristown Transportation Center study, which recommended circulation, pedestrian, and streetscape improvements for the facility;
- SEPTA Bus Stop Design Guidelines report; and
- Camden County Bicycling and Multi-Use Trails Master Plan.

A beneficial tool developed in recent years is Transit Score. The tool is technical in nature but transparent and accessible in application, and informs a better understanding of the relationship between land use configuration and public transportation. This enables a more productive discussion of proposed transportation, planning, or transit-related development project at the conceptual level. Transit score is also enhanced by looking at on-the-ground Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ), so that specific trip and transfer patterns within a study area could be discerned along with transportation accessibility.

Mr. Krykewycz's presentation may be found at:

<http://www.dvrpc.org/ASP/committee/Presentations/PPTF/2013-09.pdf>.

One Minute Reports from PPTF Members

Task Force members were invited to provide updates on the activities of their organizations/municipalities/neighborhoods.

Jim Hopkins attended the July 25 “Party in the Park” event to launch the newly adopted DVRPC Long-Range Plan. He also reminded members that if they have particular issues to bring to the Board, that they should contact him. Mr. Hopkins will attend the October 24, 2013 Board meeting to present on recent PPTF activities.

Aissia Richardson also attended July 25 event, and several of her summer interns were able to participate as well. Ms. Richardson also noted that she submitted a presentation proposal to the PA Brownfields Conference, which was accepted. The focus will be on urban gardening and the impacts of gardens on communities through programming and using formerly vacant space.

Ms. Richardson announced an upcoming event: Green Divide: Sustainability & Environmental Justice, which is scheduled for October 23, 2013, 6:30 P.M., at TWU Local 234, 500 North 2Nd Street, Philadelphia. Speakers include Rob Fleming, Architect, LEED® AP BD&C, Associate Professor and Director, MS in Sustainable Design Program, Philadelphia University and Katherine Gajewski, Director, Mayor's Office of Sustainability at City of Philadelphia, who will give an update on the Greenworks program.

Joyce Smith referenced a recent report from the Center for Public Integrity: “After the Meltdown — Where are they now?” This report revisits the subprime lenders, Wall Street banks, and government regulators that were most responsible for the fiscal crash and found few if any have been held accountable.

Committee Business and Upcoming Outreach, Events, and News

- Another member selection round for the PPTF will kick off in mid-September to select up to eight new members. The PPTF has lost a couple of members over the year to relocation, other commitments, etc. The application has not changed since the last round, and will be advertised through the DVRPC website, an email blast, a media release, and via Twitter. Applications will also be available at regional libraries, and will be mailed to individuals in the outreach database who do not have email addresses. Current members of the PPTF will have their terms conclude at the end of 2014, and will have an option to complete an additional two-year term. Members selected from this application round will start their terms in 2014.
- Jane Meconi will send out a poll to members to schedule the 2014 PPTF meetings. As previously noted, meetings will now be held every six weeks.
- DVRPC Public Disclosure Policy: a draft revision to DVRPC’s Public Disclosure policy was previously distributed to PPTF members for review. DVRPC last updated its public disclosure policy in 2011, so it is time to revisit the policy. In addition, there is an impact to the policy as the result of recent court decisions that make DVRPC not subject to the Pennsylvania Right-to-Know law and the New Jersey Open Records law. The update does not change DVRPC’s attitude to public disclosure and the desire to maintain a transparent planning process.
 - A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of the Public Disclosure Policy to the DVRPC Board. The motion passed.
- DVRPC will be tabling at the following events in the coming weeks: October 5, 2013: LaSalle University Community Health Fair, October 18, 2013: Mercer County Expo, October 23, 2013: Temple University Sustainability Fair.
- A DVRPC Regional Student Forum meeting will be held from 3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. on October 24, 2013. The event will be held at the Philadelphia History Museum at Atwater Kent. There will be an introduction to the various exhibits at the museum, and time for networking.

Public Comments and Questions

There were no public comments or questions.