



June 24, 2014 Meeting Highlights

Attendees: David Cohen, Harry Fox, David Gunther, James Hopkins, Morgan Hugo, Joel Johnson, Elise Mannella, Peter Meyer, Chuck Romick, Tahirih Smith, Liz Walsh Theresa Ziegler (PPTF Members); Candace Snyder, Jane Meconi, Barry Seymour, Laurie Matkowski, Rob Graff (Staff)

Welcome and Meeting Overview

Jim Hopkins, PPTF Chair, welcomed members to the meeting.

Presentations

RIMIS Deployment Update

Laurie Matkowski, Manager, DVRPC Office of Transportation Operations, presented an overview of her department and highlighted the RIMIS (Regional Integrated Multi-Modal Information Sharing) Project. A growing role for DVRPC is to assist our transportation providers to better manage and operate their systems. This includes advanced information systems, operations centers, incident management and response, emergency services, tolling and congestion pricing, parking management, service scheduling, and a host of other techniques. DVRPC convenes the Transportation Operations Task Force, which is a forum for agencies to share information on ITS (Intelligent Transportation Systems) deployments and incident management programs, develop a consensus on regional ITS issues, respond to federal initiatives, and develop an annual action plan. It has the ability to establish subcommittees to tackle specific issues as they arise. As a technical-level group, it directs DVRPC's Transportation Operations planning activities that in turn support the Task Force.

RIMIS is a web based information exchange network connecting highway operation centers, transit control centers, and 911 call centers in the Delaware Valley. RIMIS enables agencies to receive messages about incidents, construction and maintenance activity, and special events that impact highways and transit.

The overall motivation for RIMIS is to foster better communications and information-sharing between the many agencies in the region. RIMIS's objectives include:

- Enable agencies to provide timely and clear notifications and information to other agencies.
- Enable agencies to act on timely and clear incident notifications and information about the transportation system.

- Increase the knowledge of the transportation "big picture."
- Improve the interpretation of transportation information through utilization of common formats and protocols used by the "source" agencies.

RIMIS is proving to be a great tool for local emergency responders in the region and our operating agency partners in their battle against highway incidents and traffic congestion. An update was provided on how this system is being used and which agencies at the state, regional, county, city and municipal levels are currently using it in their daily operations.

Resilience in the Face of Climate Change

Rob Graff, DVRPC Manager, Office of Energy and Climate Change Initiatives, provided a brief introduction to the impacts of climate change on the region, and how agencies and organizations are preparing to address issues such as flooding, snow, and storms. Mr. Graff reported on an FTA-funded project for SEPTA to complete updates to the Norristown- Manayunk Regional Rail line, which runs along the Schuylkill River and is susceptible to flooding. Signal huts are now elevated to avoid flooding, and a turn-around was installed at the edge of the flood zone so the line can run until that point. SEPTA has also instituted several administrative changes, such as using social media to alert customers of service changes, and suspending service prior to a storm so trains and buses do not get stranded. By suspending service earlier, SEPTA can reinstate service faster once the weather event clears. Mr. Graff also highlighted an FHWA-funded project to assess the vulnerability to climate change for two regional transportation corridors in New Jersey.

Committee Business and Upcoming Outreach, Events, and News

- Candace Snyder announced that this meeting would be the final one chaired by Jim Hopkins, and thanked him for his service in guiding the PPTF in its initial stage.
- Tahirih Smith, current Vice Chair, has volunteered for the Chair position. Bradley Flamm has volunteered for the Vice Chair position. No other volunteers or nominations were received from the floor. Jim Hopkins made a motion to endorse this slate, which was seconded by Peter Meyer, and it was passed unanimously by PPTF members in attendance. An online poll will also be taken of PPTF members not in attendance to validate the election.
- The next PPTF meeting is scheduled for August 5. Understanding that August is a popular month for vacation, a poll will be taken of members to see if there is interest in having this meeting. There is also an option to have an informal event for members to meet.
- PPTF representatives to DVRPC committees were reviewed. There is a need for a Pennsylvania representative to the Regional Technical Committee (RTC). The RTC meets 10 times a year, usually the second Tuesday of the month, and serves as an advisory unit to DVRPC reporting to the DVRPC Board. PPTF members will be polled for a volunteer.
- Jane Meconi noted that the May 15 special PPTF meeting was well attended and received, and that planning for a fall special event will start soon. She asked for recommendations for topics and special guest speakers that may be invited to this event.
- The DVRPC FY 2015 Work Program will get underway starting July 1, 2014. Planning for the FY 2016 Work Program will get underway this summer. There will be an opportunity for PPTF members to recommend projects, work with DVRPC staff, or suggest programs.

- The public meeting for the Draft PA TIP, Draft Long-Range Plan amendments, and Transportation Conformity is Thursday, June 26, at 4:00 PM at DVRPC. There is also a webinar option for this meeting.

One Minute Reports from PPTF Members

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

Jim Hopkins noted that he has enjoyed his time as PPTF Chair, and felt that the brainstorming session held last year really helped evolve the PPTF, and he looks forward to working with the group in the coming year. He also reported that he is working with Camden on a stormwater management program. These types of programs will become increasingly important as more climate change impacts affect the region.

Liz Walsh reported that Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) have received additional funding for long-term unemployed individuals.

David Cohen said that a bill currently making its way in Pennsylvania, HB2188, would put a moratorium on tax credits for economic development projects.

Peter Meyer reported that New Hope, PA is instituting a shuttle bus to help alleviate parking issues in the borough.

Theresa Ziegler announced that the Gloucester County Freeholders recently announced a multi-purpose trail map for the county. The county is also updating its FEMA maps.

Chuck Romick added that the original maps were in use since the 1960s, and were updated in 2010, and now will be updated in 2014.

Harry Fox reported that Burlington County is also updating its FEMA maps.

Tahirih Smith noted that Mercer County hosted the Special Olympics, June 14-21. Over 175,000 visited the area, and that traffic was handled well.

Elise Mannella recommended the book *Innovation Economics* by Robert Atkinson, and noted that community organizations and agencies should be posting more data online to share with the public.

David Gunther recommended the book *The Work: Anatomy of City* by Kate Ascher. Both he and his five year old nephew enjoyed the book, and it offers a great introduction to the urban environment for all ages.

Public Comments and Questions

There were no formal public comments.

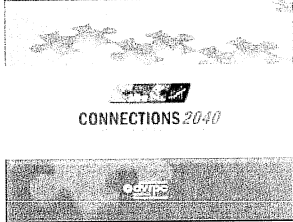
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Energy and Climate Change Initiatives

DVRPC's Office of Energy and Climate Change Initiatives leads, supports, and coordinates efforts to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Greater Philadelphia, and to prepare the region for the impacts of climate change. Because over 90 percent of the region's GHG emissions are associated with energy use, the office's GHG reduction work focuses on energy conservation, energy efficiency, and enabling a shift to low-carbon energy. This work supports DVRPC's regional goal to reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions 60 percent below 2005 levels by 2040, which will put our region on track to achieve an 80 percent reduction in GHG emissions by 2050—a reduction necessary at the global level to keep the impacts of global climate change within an acceptable range.

Regional Long Range Plan DVRPC's Long Range Plan, *Connections 2040: Plan For Greater Philadelphia*, incorporates issues



of climate change mitigation and adaptation, together with the policies and tools to address these important issues. The plan integrates these issues into the key strategies critical to realizing a sustainable future for our region.

Regional Energy Use and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory DVRPC carries out a periodic inventory of regional energy use and GHG emissions to inform the development of regional and local policies to reduce energy use and GHG emissions. The inventory and associated tools feature county and municipal allocations of energy use and emissions estimates to support local action across the region. The 2010 *Regional Energy Use and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory* updates DVRPC's 2005 inventory with 2010 data on energy consumption and emissions. The inventory and municipal energy use and emissions look-up tool are available online.

Circuit Rider program for Energy Efficiency in Municipal Operations Through the *Circuit Rider* program, DVRPC provides direct technical assistance, quarterly energy management seminars, and analytical tools to municipalities in the region for reducing energy costs in municipal operations. Through the Direct Technical Assistance work, DVRPC directly assists municipalities to identify, prioritize, and implement cost-effective energy management strategies for their operations. The quarterly seminar series highlights energy management topics of interest to the region's municipalities.

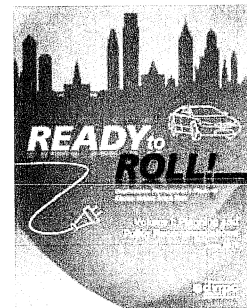


CIRCUIT RIDER PROGRAM

Preparing the Region for Alternative Energy More and more homes and businesses are installing solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, wind turbines, and geothermal units. DVRPC helps municipalities respond with ordinances, regulations, and best practices that reduce barriers, but protect community interests. DVRPC's *Solar Ready II* project will work with municipalities in Greater Philadelphia to promote best practices to reduce the soft (non-hardware) costs, including

compliance with municipal regulations such as permitting and inspection, of installing solar PV systems. Reducing these costs will help expand the use of solar PV by the region's residents, businesses, and municipalities. *Solar Ready II* builds on the work of DVRPC's Alternative Energy Ordinance Working Group (AEOWG). AEOWG brings together leadership from counties and municipalities in the region to create guidance on developing ordinances related to alternative energy production and access.

Readying the Region for Alternative Fuel Vehicles The region's vehicle mix includes growing numbers of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs), from natural gas-powered trucks to electric passenger cars. Several DVRPC projects address AFVs. The *Ready to Roll?* report catalogs the key policy issues surrounding several types of AFVs and fuels. In *Ready to Roll! Southeastern Pennsylvania's Regional Electric Vehicle Action Plan*, DVRPC looked more closely at plug-in electric vehicles (EVs), projecting where EVs are likely to be adopted and describing how municipalities and other regional stakeholders can prepare for them. Through the ongoing *Pennsylvania Partnership to Promote Natural Gas Vehicles*, DVRPC provides information directly to municipalities and school districts about natural gas vehicles.



Adapting to Climate Change in the Region

DVRPC works with local and regional partners to improve their resiliency to climate stressors such as extreme heat, severe weather, flooding, drought and sea level rise by helping them understand how future changes in temperature, precipitation and storm patterns could exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and introduce new ones. DVRPC developed a comprehensive climate change adaptation strategy for the City of Chester, partnered with consultants to assess the vulnerability of SEPTA's regional rail system, and participating in Sustainable Jersey's Climate Adaptation Task Force. In 2012, DVRPC, NJTPA and NJDOT completed an FHWA-funded vulnerability assessment of New Jersey's transportation infrastructure to the impacts of climate change.

Integrating Energy and Climate Change Concerns Throughout DVRPC Activities DVRPC's Office of Energy and Climate Change Initiatives works with DVRPC staff to integrate climate change and energy concerns into all appropriate aspects of DVRPC's work and elevate the positive implications for greenhouse gas reductions and energy conservation associated with long-standing DVRPC goals, such as brownfield development, ozone reduction, and transit-oriented development.

For More Information:

www.dvrpc.org/EnergyClimate

Rev. January 2014

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

FY 2016 Work Program Development
Supportive Regional Highway Planning Program (Chapter Three)
Transit Support Program (Chapter Four)

SPECIAL STUDY GUIDANCE

Each year, funds are set aside for DVRPC's County Partners to submit limited duration studies and projects for the Supportive Regional Highway Planning Program (SRHPP) and the Transit Support Program (TSP). In New Jersey funds are available for both SRHPP and TSP. In Pennsylvania, funds are available only in TSP. Please note:

- All submissions must be germane to funding source: TSP studies must have a transit focus, and SRHPP studies concern highway issues.
- Study duration should be one year only; in occasional cases a second year of funding will be granted, if there is need for further work, at the discretion of the relevant Regional Technical Committee (RTC) Subcommittee.
- Many types of studies are considered, however any study submitted must be the building block on which future work will be based.

All Submissions must include:

- Project Description. This should include all information about the project, such as need statement, location, and beneficiaries.
- Written statement(s) from beneficiaries that project is needed.
- Written commitment to consider carrying out study recommendations from all agencies/ organizations which would be obligated to do so.
- Funding Request
- Identify if the study will be done by county, municipality, DVRPC, or consultant.

Members of the Public Participation Task Force are encouraged to bring any SRHPP or TSP Special Study ideas to their County Planning Commission/Department for potential inclusion in these programs.

DVRPC STAFF IDEAS FOR FUTURE WORK

4/28/2014	<u>Theme/Approach</u>	<u>Planning/Research</u>	<u>Process/Civic-brokering</u>	<u>Data Creation/Collection</u>
Healthy Communities	Health Impact Assessments/Community Health Assessments Develop and promote Active Design and Universal Design Guidelines Identify land suitable to produce more locally grown food thru orchards, community gardens, victory gardens Plan for aging in place	Convene Healthy Communities Task Force Charrettes/public process to design healthy communities		
Environmental Planning	Identify Barriers to Green Infrastructure Develop prioritization strategy for land preservation based on food production and environmental quality. Link farmland preservation with community revitalization.	Facilitate Stormwater Management/Utilities Facilitate Outreach for Urban Tree Canopy Assessments, incentivize with trees	Collect data on places in need, with available space, for green stormwater management treatments	
Hazard Mitigation/Climate Change Adaptation	Prepare Navy Yard Evacuation Study Interview key agencies/organizations to learn how they were affected by past extreme weather events Design for future climate impacts and extreme weather events, including green infrastructure approaches Evaluate opportunities to rebuild transportation infrastructure given different climate scenarios	Encourage multi-municipal responses	Collect data tailored to resiliency, i.e. what gets repeatedly damaged	
Energy Planning	Explore implications of shale drilling/utility lines/pipelines on land use, transportation, zoning, eminent domain, preserved land, hazards, economic development, supply of energy, etc. With promise of cheap energy, what are implications for shared use, safety, emergency response, land use, repurposing refineries, community impacts, freight as good neighbor			
Municipal Outreach	Identify opportunities to provide Technical Assistance and direct services to local gov'ts, i.e. zoning, planning, grant applications, subdivision and site plan review, comp planning, project management Identify and promote innovative zoning techniques and where they make sense - (e.g. egg and honey ordinances, pop-up retail, granny flats) Revisit water/sewer line extensions and policy implications Update greyfields inventory, design retrofits, including redesign of parking lots	Build local capacity, enhance or support Main Street programs. Promote certain zoning ordinances, i.e.. accessory dwelling units	Municipal Survey - identify services needed	

	<p>Address transportation needs in expanding West Philadelphia as an employment and residential center</p> <p>Future scenario development , including what will be the big game changers, and how to integrate with planning work, i.e. millennials, cheap energy, autonomous vehicles, health care tourism, etc.</p>	<p>Engage public through social media, scenario games, design competitions</p> <p>Convene Futures Group Task Force</p>	
<p>Long-Range Planning</p>	<p>Research secondary and post-secondary education linked to work force development, such as 6 year high schools/vocational schools with degree offered</p> <p>Drill down analyses on economic clusters and identify economic development strategies, (e.g. health care, creative economy, non-profits, manufacturing)</p> <p>Study feasibility of land banks in suburbs</p>	<p>Encourage more partnerships between universities and underperforming public schools</p> <p>Encourage Philadelphia's manufacturing resurgence and efforts to increase education</p>	<p>Use school district as a geography for analyses</p>
<p>Economic Development</p>	<p>Research how to achieve equitable development and ladders of opportunity - redevelopment without displacement</p> <p>Planning for changing demographics (ex. declining homeownership; working from home)</p>	<p>Work with Developers on equitable TOD</p>	
<p>Housing</p>	<p>Identify gaps in data: sidewalk inventory, bike lane inventory, highway/RR crossings (volumes, equipment, gates, lighting, vertical separation, signals and timing, etc.)</p>	<p>Update via "crowd sourcing", and require updates as prerequisite for applying for grants</p>	<p>Create a repository for municipal and county plans and GIS layers</p>
<p>Data/Technology</p>	<p>Improve transportation operations by increasing funding and level of effort for signal retiming in PA counties</p> <p>Conduct objective region-wide prioritization on candidate projects, and get them ready for grant announcements like TIGER.</p>	<p>Open operation center in each NJ county</p> <p>Work with partners to be fully aware of funding opportunities like Multimodal Fund and work with local govts to be poised to access funds.</p>	<p>Travelers' behavior - gather data on how are decisions made?</p>
<p>Transportation</p>	<p>Find opportunities to do quick turn around projects, even for temporary improvements, (e.g. parking day, food trucks in parking lots, pop up parks)</p> <p>Become more involved in Amtrak Northeast Corridor work</p> <p>Identify bottlenecks on freight and economy, i.e. Delair Bridge is only gateway for freight into S. Jersey</p>	<p>Create marketing piece on road diet benefits</p>	
<p>Land Use</p>	<p>Evaluate impacts on land use from road diets: vacancy rates, traffic, bike, pedestrian use, public perception</p> <p>Explore how changing demographics may affect land use, housing, design, and transportation</p> <p>Explore school location choices and re-use of school buildings.</p> <p>Evaluate abandoned, publicly owned buildings for demolition or reuse: asset management for buildings</p>		
<p>Immigration</p>	<p>Retain highly educated immigrants</p> <p>Need financial aid for immigrant students</p>		<p>Use legislative district as a geography for analyses</p>