



September 18, 2014 Meeting Highlights

Attendees: David Cohen, Michael DiVietro, Quibila Divine, Bradley Flamm, Harry Fox, David Gunther, Rhonda Wardlow Hurley, Joel Johnson, Martin Johnson, Dick Linderman, Elise Mannella, Chuck Romick, Joyce Smith, Tahirih Smith, Peter Yull, Theresa Ziegler (PPTF Members); Adam Tecza, Andy Sharpe (guests), Candace Snyder, Jane Meconi, Ted Dahlburg (Staff)

Welcome and Meeting Overview

Tahirih Smith, PPTF Chair, welcomed members to the meeting.

Presentations

Trenton 250 Master Plan

Adam Tecza, Planning Analyst, Group Melvin Design, presented an update on the Trenton master planning process. Peter Yull, PPTF member and Chair of the Trenton Planning Commission introduced the project's concepts and the Planning Commission's perspective on the project thus far. The overall goal of the process is to create consensus around a community-driven vision for Trenton. Mr. Tecza presented various aspects of the outreach, including using traditional media, in-person events, social media (including Instagram and Twitter), and a youth summit conducted at an area school, and followed with lessons learned from each of the strategies. He also highlighted the use of Google analytics, and other methods to evaluate the various techniques employed.

Phase II of the project will be underway soon, which will include a text-based survey to reach new stakeholders. Mr. Tecza's presentation may be found under "Presentations" at <http://www.dvrpc.org/ASP/committee/committee.aspx?p=PPTF>.

Trains and Trucks and Ships and Planes: DVRPC's Office of Freight and Aviation Planning

Ted Dahlburg, Manager, DVRPC Office of Freight and Aviation Planning, provided an overview of various plans and programs that impact goods movement in the region. Freight is an important part of the region and its economy. Mr. Dahlburg highlighted the Philly Freight Finder, <http://www.dvrpc.org/webmaps/phillyfreightfinder/>, which is a dynamic, web-based mapping application that pinpoints freight facilities and freight activity in the Philadelphia-Camden-Trenton region. In addition, this tool highlights how the various freight system components intertwine and complement each other. Mr. Dahlburg noted some larger infrastructure projects underway which

impact the freight community: the deepening of the Delaware River shipping channel, the widening of the New Jersey Turnpike, and raising bridges to accommodate “double stack” freight cars. Mr. Dahlburg’s presentation may be found under “Presentations” at <http://www.dvrpc.org/ASP/committee/committee.aspx?p=PPTF>.

Committee Business and Upcoming Outreach, Events, and News

- The DVRPC EJ Work Group will meet on October 9, 2014 at DVRPC. Breakfast will be served at 8:45 AM and the meeting will get underway at 9:00 AM. Eileen Divringi, Community Development Research Analyst, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia will present “Small Legacy Cities, Equity, and a Changing Economy,” a report completed by a group of graduate students from the University of Pennsylvania’s Department of City and Regional Planning in spring 2014. With CDS&E serving as the project client, the students were tasked with evaluating the extent to which economic revitalization strategies in three Third District cities had led to equitable outcomes for low- and moderate-income residents. The report also presents city-specific recommendations and proposes a framework for integrating equity as a strategic priority into local economic development efforts.
- The next PPTF meeting is scheduled for October 28, 2014, and will be the next “Facing the Future” event. A representative from the Economy League of Greater Philadelphia will present the *World Class Index*, which tracks progress around a shared agenda for regional growth and opportunity. A flyer will be available shortly. This meeting will be an opportunity to discuss a variety of economic development and livability factors that will impact Greater Philadelphia’s growth and prosperity into the future.
- An application round to select new at-large members for the PPTF is scheduled for this fall.
- DVRPC’s Federal Certification is scheduled for November 2014.
- There is still an opportunity for Pennsylvania residents to take part in the Online Broadband and Technology training program, which offers free computer program training. For more information, visit www.paobtt.com.

One Minute Reports from PPTF Members

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

Rhonda Wardlow Hurley reported that the Camden County Fair will take place on (9/27-9/28 at the County’s Lakeland Complex in Blackwood. There is free admission to the fair and free parking. Ms. Hurley also described the challenges surrounding the I-295/ Route 55/ Route 42 reconstruction for drivers.

Bradley Flamm updated members on two studies underway at the Temple Center For Sustainable Communities: barriers to the implementation of Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies on U.S. 422; and climate action planning on the municipal planning. DVRPC’s Energy and Climate Change staff have been helpful in the latter study.

Marty Johnson reported that he recently gave a presentation on philanthropy trends in Mercer County.

Joyce Smith announced that her neighborhood organization is receiving an excellence award from the Community Design Collaborative for its East Parkside master plan. She also reported that Habitat for Humanity has been working on a unique project in the community—revitalizing the façade of several historic homes.

Chuck Romick reported that Gloucester County is kicking off visioning for a new master plan.

Tahirih Smith noted that an alliance of municipalities in Mercer County are undertaking some sustainability initiatives: curbside organics recycling, energy aggregate purchases, a referendum to ban plastic bags, and a “buy local” campaign.

Public Comments and Questions

There were no formal public comments.

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