



October 28, 2014 Meeting Highlights

Attendees: David Cohen, Michael DiVietro, Bradley Flamm, Novella Hinson, Jim Hopkins, Morgan Hugo, Rhonda Wardlow Hurley, Joel Johnson, Dick Linderman, Elise Mannella, Peter Meyer, Aissia Richardson, Chuck Romick, Joyce Smith, Tahirih Smith, Peter Yull, Theresa Ziegler (PPTF Members); Jasper Jones, Barbara Kelley, Jonathan Maresch, Bill Caldwell, Bill Comer, Paul Glover, Bob Philpott, G. Hayward Simpson, Dennis Winters, Laura Dijols, Christopher Waters, David Feldman, Lynn Odom, Nicki Woods, Johnetta Frazier, Peter Harris, Danielle Bower, Brian Traylor, Linda Richardson, Larry Eichel, Amanda Bergson-Shilcock (guests), Jane Meconi (Staff)

Welcome and Meeting Overview

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

Special Presentation

The World Class Index

As part of its yearly activities, PPTF members host a series of events to invite experts to discuss a range of topics affecting the region. Laura Johnson, Director of Initiatives and Communications for the Economy League of Greater Philadelphia, presented the World Class Index, which is the latest development of World Class Greater Philadelphia, a business- and civic-led initiative to develop and advance a shared agenda for regional growth and opportunity.

The Index measures how greater Philadelphia is faring in several areas and is a framework for tracking progress around the shared World Class agenda for improving regional education and talent outcomes, boosting business growth, and making infrastructure more effective and reliable. It establishes common indicators for local leaders, provides clear-eyed analysis of metro trends, highlights collaborations leading to impact, and points to where immediate action is needed.

The index may be found at <http://www.worldclassgreaterphila.org/world-class-index> and Ms. Johnson's presentation is posted at <http://www.dvrpc.org/ASP/committee/Presentations/PPTF/2014-10.pdf>.

Meeting participants had many questions and participated in a lively discussion of the issues presented. Ms. Johnson noted that the World Class Index is a “jumping off” point of data for organizations to use to support programming and policies. Since 2008, there has been rising income inequality in the region. There was discussion on economic development indicators, from growing small business entrepreneurship, positioning Philadelphia in the international market and growing exports, and capitalizing on higher education and research strengths in the region. The connection between economic growth and individual achievement was also made, in that education and talent development are incredibly important for the region’s growth. This includes everything from pre-K access to improving high school graduation rates. Participants felt that stakeholders and decision-makers need to promote what makes Philadelphia special and unique from other competing cities, particularly those on the east coast.

Committee Business and Upcoming Outreach, Events, and News

- DVRPC is currently accepting applications for membership to the Public Participation Task Force. The deadline for application has been extended to November 5, 2014. For more information, as well as for a link to the online application, visit: <http://www.dvrpc.org/ASP/committee/committee.aspx?p=PPTF>
- DVRPC’s Federal Certification is scheduled for November 5-6, 2014. A public session will take place on Thursday, November 6, 2014 at 10:00 AM. All members of the public are invited to attend and comment on DVRPC plans and programs, and outreach activities.
- 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 and Meeting Participants

Peter Yull announced that the Trenton 250 Master Plan is entering its next phase. DVRPC will also be working with the City of Trenton on a parking study.

Morgan Hugo mentioned a new website, <http://www.unlockphilly.com/>, which uses open source data and social media to map and find accessible locations and services.

Rhonda Wardlow Hurley promoted several upcoming events in Camden County, including the Greater Philadelphia/Pennsauken Pancreatic Cancer Research Walk/Run, and the Cooper Norcross Run the Bridge event.

Novella Hinson reported on several projects and issues in Camden: using DVRPC’s recently completed parking study, further research will explore new parking structures with ground floor retail; vocational education programs at Camden High School to develop new career paths for students; and workforce and economic development continue to be top priorities for the city.

Jim Hopkins has been working in Camden consulting with United Water. Many parts of the Camden water system date to the 1850s, and 88% of the system is over 100 years old. System leakage can be a significant problem, as clean water is lost through leaky pipes, etc. Mr. Hopkins has also been representing the PPTF at DVRPC RTC meetings.

Dick Linderman commented that LEED and other sustainability practices strive to limit parking in cities, in order to support more transit use.

Bradley Flamm reported that community workshops will be scheduled in the coming weeks to discuss the TDM study underway re: US 422 from King of Prussia to Pottstown.

Theresa Ziegler announced that the Gloucester County master plan process is underway, and a community survey will be released in January.

Joyce Smith announced that the Viola Street Neighborhood Plan was approved by the Philadelphia City Planning Commission.

Jasper Jones spoke about the City Council decision to not sell PGW, as well as a need for urban agriculture.

Peter Harris noted that there are parking issues in north and west Philadelphia, particularly students near college campuses. He also felt that education is crucially important to the future of Philadelphia.

Paul Glover reported that the development of the Patch Adams clinic in Philadelphia is moving forward.

Azuka Anyiam of the African Caribbean Business Council (ACBC) announced that the ACBC's 5th Annual Winter Awards Dinner will occur on November 8, 2014, with a focus on promoting green energy as a way for Africa and Caribbean industrialization. For more information, visit www.acbcphilly.com.

Public Comments and Questions on Non-Agenda Items

There were no formal public comments or questions.

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, and related nondiscrimination statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. DVRPC's website, www.dvrpc.org, may be translated into multiple languages. Publications and other public documents can be made available in alternative languages and formats, if requested. DVRPC public meetings are always held in ADA-accessible facilities and in transit-accessible locations when possible. Auxiliary services can be provided to individuals who submit a request at least seven days prior to a meeting. Requests made within seven days will be accommodated to the greatest extent possible. Any person who believes they have been aggrieved by an unlawful discriminatory practice by DVRPC under Title VI has a right to file a formal complaint. Any such complaint may be in writing and filed with DVRPC's Title VI Compliance Manager and/or the appropriate state or federal agency within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory occurrence. For more information on DVRPC's Title VI program, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, please call (215) 238-2871 or email public_affairs@dvrpc.org.