

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes of the December 16, 2004 Meeting of the Regional Aviation Committee

Attendee

Affiliation

Phil Bidden	Penn's Landing Heliport
Skip Coon	DVRPC
Rich Delello	B.R.R.A.M.
Everitt B. DuPont	New Garden Airport
Justin Edwards	Trenton Mercer Airport
Jim Fels	FAA Harrisburg ADO
Dawn Fithian	Penn's Landing Heliport
Marsha Hockstadt	McFarland-Johnson, Inc.
Gary L. Hudson	Chester County/C.O. Carlson Airport
Heidi Kahme	P.L.A.N.E.
Michael Kirkpatrick	DELDOT
Ted Kleiner	STV Inc.
Matt Kundrot	Delta Airport Consultants
Jim MacKenzie	DMJM
Mike McCartney	Philadelphia International Airport
Luke McHugh	DMJM Aviation
Roger Moog	DVRPC
Steve Muench	P.B. Aviation
David Nelson	Brandywine Airport
Reiner Pelzer	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Harry Scarlett	Bucks Co. Airport Authority
Susan Sweeney	Angel Flight East
Tom Tomczyk	PENNDOT
Heather Winett	Regional Citizens Committee
Thabet Zakaria	DVRPC
Cy Zinn	URS Corporation

1) Introduction

Justin Edwards, Manager, Trenton Mercer Airport, and RAC Chair introduced himself and asked attendees to do the same.

2) Minutes of the September 16, 2004 Regional Aviation Committee (RAC) Meeting

Minutes were approved as distributed.

3) Status of Regional Airports/Heliports Development

Philadelphia International - Mike McCartney reported that two EIS's are underway, one for runway 17/35 extension and the other for the full master plan rebuild of the airport. FAA will decide on the 17/35 EIS in February 2005. Part 150 noise abatement is underway in Tinicum Township and ultimately 600 houses may be affected. Dr. Zakaria noted that DVRPC is doing the traffic/transit access road simulation for the second EIS.

Northeast Philadelphia - Mike also said that taxiway expansion, an ALP update and new business relocations are underway at this airport.

Doylestown - Harry Scarlett, Bucks County Airport Authority member said they had purchased 34 acres adjoining the airport to support the 800 ft runway extensive to 3,800 ft. A traffic study is underway regarding closing Stoney Lane. The Authority is looking at a camera security system for the airport.

Quakertown - Harry reported that 16 new t-hangars are being constructed. The ALP update is underway and recommending increase taxiway runway separation to accommodate the Citation jet and King Airs that use the airport. Two properties in the RPZ are being considered for acquisition.

VanSant - This airport has been approved to continue to operate under Bucks County Authority control as a grass strip with no night operations. The airport is principally used for antique aircraft and recreational flyers, in good weather.

Trenton Mercer - Mr. Edwards said the airport is implementing several improvements including 16/34 runway repaving, PAPI's to replace VASIS, REILS, and a omni directional beacon. Snow equipment has been funded. They are also bidding for operation of their contract tower. The EA for the additional car parking and gate is still with FAA. Jim Fels of FAA noted that Pan Am is operating Gulf Stream jets in scheduled service from TTN to New England and Florida with maybe 10,000 emplanements per year.

New Castle Co. - Jim Fels noted that Steve Williams has been hired to replace Rocco Tomanelli. The Master Plan will be done this fall and corporate hangar development is needed.

Chester County - Gary Hudson, the new Airport Manager introduced himself and said the airport is installing a security system with coded gate entry, perimeter fencing and surveillance cameras. Apron expansion is underway and new tie downs are being considered for next year. Gary added that a housing

development nearby is being considered by local government and must be rejected for the airports future. Jim Fels will work with Gary on this.

South Jersey Regional - The hangar project by Dan Rusk is in limbo since the Township is avoiding it and the NJDOT will not intercede.

Pottstown Limerick - Marsha Hochstadt of McFarland Johnson said the fencing and gate project for critical areas at the airport is underway.

Pottstown Municipal - Matt Kundrot of Delta Consultants reported that several projects are underway including apron expansion, runway rehab, and obstruction removal. New FBO is being selected.

Pennridge - Ms. Hochstadt said obstruction removal and an apron expansion are underway, while Dan Rusks company is developing t-hangar and corporate hangar's on the north side of the airport. That lease has been approved.

Summit - This airport is completing its master plan.

New Garden - Everitt Dupont noted that FAA's revenue diversion policy interpretation is holding up acquisition of this airport by New Garden Township. Mr. Dupont also noted the letter be received from the PA Department of Revenue regarding identifying out of state based aircraft at his airport for purposes of charging sales tax. Other operators at the meeting have received similar letters and feel they can not participate since airports have no way of knowing title or acquisition history of aircraft using their facility.

Mr. Fels suggested patience on the revenue diversion at non-commercial airports issue, saying it is being reviewed at FAA headquarters and legislative change may be needed. The issue is handled differently in NJ and PA, both in FAA Eastern Region.

Cecil County - Bob Powell reported in absentia that concrete is being poured for the new above ground fuel tanks. The taxiway is being overlayed, and the safety areas expanded.

Brandywine - Marsha Hochstadt said new taxiway and NAVAIDS design is in progress. Dave Nelson noted that the airport is located in an industrial zone, however, senior housing has been proposed 100 ft south of the runway end. West Goshon Township is considering approving the project. Justin Edwards noted the potential conflict created by this type of land use placement and said any property agreements of sale must have full disclosure clauses in the deeds. This also demonstrates the benefit of using AIP or state funds to buy aviation easements adjoining airports.

Penns Landing Heliport - Matt Kundrot of Delta, said that Sterling has submitted its 12 year plan to PENNDOT and that operations including EMS trips are increasing. Matt mentioned DVRPC and FAA Harrisburg efforts to develop and resolve issues that would permit FAA funding of an EA to resolve environmental and noise questions about the extended pier to provide an expanded landing and take off area. Mr. Fels said the 7480 airspace study request is in to FAA Flight Standards, to examine potential approaches currently with ship traffic on the Delaware, and with an extended pier. Results are expected in early 2005 which will indicate if the EA can proceed with AIP funds. Mr. Fels added that DVRPC may be the sponsor for this study which would be bid out to a consultant. Mike McCartney asked if PHL got airspace notice on recent construction in the area.

4) Continuing Planning Activities

- PA Jet Fuel Tax Increase - Mr. Moog summarized the debate on this issue between airlines, airports, GA representatives, legislators and PENNDOT staff. Proposals to raise the jet fuel tax from 1.8¢ per gallon to 2.7¢ or 3.0¢ have been met with strong opposition from all airlines. Some legislators in PA say they will proceed anyway, if a gas tax increase bill is introduced. Airlines say PENNDOT should fund projected deficits in its Aviation Restricted Account (ARA) with cost savings in PENNDOT operations or other tax revenues. Mr. Moog is working with the Department of Revenue to better quantify revenue flows through the ARA. Jim Fels suggested to do away with the Foreign Trade Zones at PHL and PIT which reduce jet fuel tax revenues. Everitt Dupont added that only jet fuel tax goes into the ARA, Avgas tax revenues go to the real estate rebate fund. Tax increases on all liquid fuels in PA is a very political issue currently on hold in the Rendell Administration and state legislature.
- CASP XXI Update - Roger Moog and Reiner Pelzer summarized status of the two studies, Suburban Jet Ports and Land Use/Zoning impacts on airports, undertaken within CASP XXI. The jet study for nine Pennsylvania airports will 1) define expected market area growth, 2) define likely families of aircraft to use facilities, 3) analyze airport growth opportunities and restrictions, 4) recommend improvements at selected airports. Several attendees suggested that New Jersey airports should participate in the jet study. Mr. Moog will contact Tom Thatcher, since current study funding comes from PA state apportionment for PA airports only. The zoning study surveyed 21 impacted townships to identify issues and conflicts in zoning enforcement and land use decisions. Specific statewide improvement recommendations will follow. Harry Scarlett noted that with home rule in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, state control of local development planning is problematic.

5) Capital Programming

- DVRPC Draft 2005-2006 ACIP Presentation - Reiner Pelzer presented the ACIP project listings developed by DVRPC and the sponsor airports for state and federal funding in the region post 7/1/05. Mr. Pelzer explained the process of meeting with PENNDOT and airports, generating the preliminary first year project list from all 12 year programs of the regional airports, analyzing and rating projects according to the FAA priority ranking process, and the DVRPC RASP priorities, and finally selecting regional projects to be approved by the DVRPC Board and sent to the PENNDOT to assist their selection process. Several attendees raised questions about project descriptions and omissions. Mr. Pelzer asked that all proposed modifications be transmitted to him by December 31, 2004. We will modify the listing, get DVRPC Board endorsement in January 2005, and then transmit to PENNDOT. Jim Fels noted the divergence of the FAA and DVRPC priority rankings. That must be explained. Also, he noted that regional funding is not guaranteed and rests with FAA and PENNDOT.

PA Funding Program - Tom Tomczyk said sponsor 12 year plans finals are due to PENNDOT on December 31, 2004. Originals should go to the Bureau of Aviation and copies to DVRPC. Primary airports and their relievers must submit 12 year plans to FAA by January 31, 2005.

6. Old Business

- PA Small Airports Committee - Everitt Dupont said his committee of the PA Aviation Council is still working with PENNDOT on the Program and Policy guidance letter update, focusing on the waiver review process.
- Northeast Corridor Air Service Study - Roger Moog reported that DVRPC is negotiating with PB Aviation on its work program and budget for work at ABE, ACY, and TTN. PB Aviation will also contract with the other study partners NYSDOT and PA of NY and NJ, separately.

New Business

- 2005 RAC Meetings - Mr. Moog said next year's meetings will be held on the following dates; March 17, June 16, September 29, December 15.
- Justin Edwards reports that Tom Carver, President of the NJ Aviation Association has been appointed Commissioner of Labor, State of NJ.
- Airport Cooperative Research Program - Mr. Moog pointed out the summary of research proposal and the program description in the mailing. These funds, which could be \$10 million per year are part of the new AIP Authorization.
- Public Comment

Heidi Kahme described the newly formed NJ General Aviation Review Commission of which she is one of 17 members. Skip Ranson is Chair and Jack Penn, Vice Chair. The Commission was formed by executive order #78 of then Governor McGreevey and will review and sign off on all major airport improvement projects in New Jersey.