



DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION



HIGHLIGHTS OF OCTOBER 30, 2007 MEETING

1. Welcome & Introductions

The meeting began with Jerry Lutin, Chairman of the Regional Safety Task Force, welcoming everyone. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves and mentioned the organization they represented. Mr. Lutin announced to the Task Force his pending retirement from New Jersey Transit. This was his last meeting as Chairman of the Task Force.

2. Summary of July's Meeting

Jerry Lutin asked for a motion to approve the Highlights from the July 2007 Regional Safety Task Force meeting. The meeting highlights were approved.

3. Presentations

Listed below are highlights from the four presentations presented at the Task Force Meeting. For more information, all presentations can be referenced on the DVRPC Safety website at www.dvrpc.org/transportation/safety/regionalsafety.htm

DVRPC Road Safety Audit Program

DVRPC staff members, Regina Moore, Transportation Engineer and Kevin Murphy, Senior Transportation Planner gave a presentation on the Road Safety Audit Program highlighting the audits that DVRPC has performed over the last year. The FHWA video on Road Safety Audits (RSA) was presented. RSA are formal examination of an existing or future road or intersection conducted by an independent, multidisciplinary team of professionals. The RSA program as conducted by DVRPC is to generate improvement recommendations and countermeasures for roadway segments demonstrating a history of, or potential for a high incidence of motor vehicle crashes. So far the 6 RSA performed by DVRPC have been identified in PennDOT's District 6 Safety Plan. The corridors have ranged in length from 2 to 8 miles. Two more RSA are scheduled to be conducted for the PA region in the Spring 2008. As part of this program DVRPC will be conducting intersection RSAs in New Jersey counties beginning in November 2007.

Guest presentations

"Ticketing Aggressive Cars and Trucks Pilot Project"

Richard Blomberg, President of Dunlap and Associates, Inc. gave a presentation on Ticketing Aggressive Cars and Trucks Pilot Project. Funded by the National Highway

Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), this enforcement demonstration pilot project was designed to test aggressive driver behavior on Washington State's interstate highways around commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) through the use of enforcement, and a heavy media educational campaign. Some of the challenges faced through this project included changing overall aggressive driver behavior, determining appropriate target locations, getting the message out to drivers, implementation of an effective enforcement plan and evaluation of the effectiveness of the project. The outcome of this pilot was a success, resulting in a reduction in the number and severity of driver violations and great media exposure of getting the message out to the public. The full report can be assessed at www.dunlapassociatesinc.com/Ticketing_Aggressive.pdf.

“AAA Pedestrian Signal Safety for Older Persons”

Cathy Rossi, Manager of Public and Governor Affairs, AAA Mid Atlantic presented the results from a study involving “Pedestrians Signal Safety for Older Persons”. The study analyzed older persons crossing the street in six communities across the country. In 2006, 65 pedestrians were killed in the Philadelphia 5-county region, of which 30% were age 60 and older. The purpose of the study was to measure the walking speeds of older and younger pedestrians and analyze the operations of the traditional and countdown signals at intersections. One of the major findings from the study revealed that traffic signals do not allow enough time for many older adults to cross the street safely at intersections. Technical findings involving the Level of Service (LOS) at intersections were also presented. The U.S. Access Board in their Draft Guidelines for Accessibility within the Public Rights-of-Way and the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices supports the findings and conclusions developed as part of this research. Although the study did not specifically target the impact of signal findings for the disabled population, future studies may consider the needs of these specific groups. More information on this study can be found by accessing AAA website at www.aaafoundation.org

“Please Heed the Speed”

Richard Blomberg, President of Dunlap and Associates, Inc. gave a presentation on “Please Heed the Speed” project, highlighting 2 pilot traffic calming studies conducted in Phoenix and Peoria, Arizona. The purpose of these studies was to examine methods for providing traffic calming solutions on neighborhood streets through education and enforcement mechanisms. With strong community support, the efforts for these pilot studies focused on the local drivers, involving both traditional (humps, speed tables, entry signs) and innovative countermeasures (tyregrip and 3-D markings). Some of the results from the studies revealed a reduction in speeds, low cost and easy implementation, and that some traffic calming can be achieved without engineering. A similar pilot project is currently being conducted in Philadelphia, which would involve more analysis on crashes, countermeasures, and persistence of speed reductions. The targeted areas for this project are located within 6 police districts with a high residential population, high number of pedestrian crashes, numerous speeding violations, citizen complaints and interest from the City in addressing the issue. Several steps have already been completed including data collection and installation of speed tracker

machines. Pending activities include conducting a kick off meeting with stakeholders, publicizing efforts, and increasing enforcement in targeted areas. This project is expected to be completed in a year.

4. Implementing the Regional Safety Action Plan

In October, the engineering, enforcement, education and legislative subcommittee meetings were held to discuss steps in moving forward with implementing strategies identified in the recently adopted Regional Safety Action Plan. Outcomes from these meetings were presented at the meeting. Highlights from the meetings are provided on the DVRPC Safety website at www.dvrpc.org/transportation/safety/regionalsafety.htm

5. Open Forum

An open forum was held for members to share and exchange information. Rosemarie Anderson, Manager of the Safety and Security Planning provided remarks on the success of the Put the Brakes on Fatalities campaign held on October 10th. With numerous participation from safety partners, this year's event exceeded expectations. She also reiterated that DVRPC will be expanding the RSA Program to include audits on intersections in New Jersey counties of the region.

Bill Beans from NJDOT announced that NJDOT and Rutgers will be sponsoring the third annual New Jersey Traffic Safety Forum. The New Jersey Strategic Highway Safety Plan will be presented. This plan addresses similar strategies as incorporated within the RSTF Regional Safety Action Plan. Safety awards will also be presented. This event will be held on Wednesday, November 28, 2007 at Brookdale Community College. For more information please visit www.tsrc.rutgers.edu/training_and_outreach/safetyforum/

On behalf of the RSTF, John Ward, DVRPC's Associate Director, Planning Division, provided well wishes to Jerry Lutin on his upcoming retirement and thanked him for his service as chairman and member of the RSTF Committee and involvement in activities at DVRPC.

Attendees

Anderson, Matthew	Chester County Planning Commission
Anderson, Rosemarie	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Bartels, Stacy	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Beans, William	New Jersey Department of Transportation
Belmonte, Lou	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Blomberg, Richard	Dunlap and Associates Inc.
Brahler, Richard	Bucks County Planning Commission
Bucci, Larry	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Burke, Erin	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Castellano, Mike	Federal Highway Administration
Deshon, Marge	Montgomery County Emergency Medical Services
Dula, Justin	Delaware County Planning Department
Feggans, Charles	New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety
Ferrell, Cristina	Greater Valley Forge TMA

Kozak, Diana	Camden County Highway Safety
Lawson, Matthew	Mercer County Planning
Lucas, Jessica	Gloucester County Planning
Lutin, Jerry	New Jersey Transit
Martu, Phillip	Pennsylvania State Police
Merlin, Debbie	Philadelphia Mayor's Commission on Aging
Monahan, Megan	PA Senator Connie William's Office
Moore, Regina	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Moran, Brooke	Bucks County Area Agency on Aging
Murphy, Kevin	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Patel, Ashwin	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Purdy, Shannon	National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Quick, Susan	Brain Injury Association of New Jersey
Ragozine, Bill	Cross County Connection TMA
Ratko, Wesley	Montgomery County Planning Commission
Rossi, Cathy	AAA Mid-Atlantic
Saiia, Joseph	Burlington County Public Safety
Santangelo, Al	Montgomery County Public Safety
Schultz, Frank	U.S. Senator Menendez Office
Spino, Sam	Camden County Highway Safety
Thomas, Dennis	Dunlap and Associates Inc.
Thomas, Carol	Burlington County Engineering
Trimbell, Shayne	Greater Valley Forge TMA
Weissman, Sarah	Transportation Safety Resource Center
Van Iderstine, Peter	Burlington County Sheriff's Dept.
Ward, John	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Waters, Chief John	Upper Merion Township Fire Department
Wishart, Scott	New Jersey State Police
Wolcott, Capt. Stephen	New Jersey State Police
Ziemer, Karl	Delaware River Port Authority