



## DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION



### HIGHLIGHTS OF JANUARY 27, 2009 MEETING

#### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

The meeting began with John Ward, Associate Director of Planning, DVRPC welcoming everyone and announced that Rosemarie Anderson, former Manager of Transportation Safety and Security Planning recently resigned from DVRPC and took new position with FHWA. He introduced Zoe Neaderland as the new Manager of Transportation Safety and Congestion Management.

#### **2. Summary of October 2008 Meeting**

John Ward asked for a motion to approve the Highlights from the October 1, 2008 Regional Safety Task Force meeting. The meeting highlights were approved.

#### **3. Guest Presentations**

##### ***Pennsylvania's Operation Lifesaver Program***

Jim Bahn, Safety Officer, SEPTA gave a presentation about Pennsylvania's Operation Lifesaver Railroad Safety Program. Operation Lifesaver is a non-profit, continuing public education program that teaches drivers and pedestrians to make safe decisions at railroad crossings and around railroad tracks. Mr. Bahn cited regional statistics involving injuries and fatal crashes at railroad facilities. In 2007, Pennsylvania ranked 11<sup>th</sup> in the nation for the number of crashes occurring at highway-rail grade crossings and 23<sup>rd</sup> in trespasser fatalities. An educational video was shown depicting preventative measures to reduce injuries and fatalities by motorists and pedestrians at railroad facilities.

##### ***Safety Benefits of Access Management***

Jerry Gluck, P.E., PTOE, AECOM, delivered a presentation on the safety benefits of access management. Access management is the control and regulation of the spacing and design of driveways, intersections, medians, median openings, traffic signals and freeway interchanges. Historically, many locations have not properly managed access, causing congestion and safety problems. To avoid costly design changes and decrease the potential for crashes, access management policies should be put in place during the

planning stages of any development. Measures used to quantify the safety and traffic operation impacts of selected access management techniques were also discussed.

### ***Motorcycle Safety***

Joe Fiocco, P.E., PTOE, McMahon Associates, presented information on motorcycle safety. Recent years have shown an increase in the number of motorcycle riders. This rise in ridership has increased the chances for motorcycle crashes to occur. Mr. Fiocco cited regional crash statistics, including a 20 percent increase in motorcycle crashes in the DVRPC region between 2002 and 2008. PennDOT's Motorcycle Safety Program and the techniques it uses to address motorcycle safety issues were also discussed.

## **4. Advisory Items**

### ***Teen Driver Study Commission Report Update***

Violet Marrero, Manager of Special Projects, New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety provided a legislative update from the New Jersey Teen Driver Commission Study. The intent of this study is to evaluate the condition of teen driving in New Jersey and make recommendations that will ultimately decrease crashes and save lives. Ms. Marrero mentioned various improvements to the current GDL law. Also highlighted were legislation and programs in support of strengthening the GDL initiatives.

### ***Updating the DVRPC Regional Safety Action Plan***

John Ward and Zoe Neaderland briefly discussed the DVRPC regional safety action plan update, which has been the guide of DVRPC's safety program. The foundation of the safety action plan was the emphasis areas which addressed specific types of crashes. A handout was provided that listed various types DVRPC activities and projects as it related to the implementation of the plan. Zoe Neaderland mentioned that the number of fatalities over the last three years in the region has remained steady, and reemphasized the idea of the Task Force continuing to exchange ideas for help in updating the action plan.

## **5. Open Forum**

An open forum was held for members to share and exchange information. Larry Bucci, PennDOT mentioned that District 6 has been working on contracts based on the availability of federal grant money. Given that Pennsylvania increased their seatbelt usage in two years to 85%, statewide there will be 28 million dollars available of which District 6 will receive approximately 1.5 million dollars for their efforts to combat the issues of head-on, sideswipe, and run off the road collision type crashes. Bill Hoffman, FHWA – NJ mentioned the stimulus program will double the funding for New Jersey's capital program in 2009. In 2008, the number of fatal crashes in New Jersey decreased by 18% from 730 to 594 crashes. Nationally, the fatal crashes are expected to be below 40,000; however bicyclist fatalities have increased. Bill Beans, NJDOT announced that NJDOT will be working on updating their strategic highway safety plan, recently six municipalities have been bought on board to participate in the Red Light Running program and that the agency has secured federal funding for various safety activities and has been successful in completing 24 safety projects within 90 days.

## ***Attendees***

Abbott, Daniel	Philadelphia Police – Traffic Unit
Anderson, Gastonia	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Anderson, Matthew	Chester County Planning Commission
Arcaro, Tina, Lt.	New Jersey State Police
Bahn, Jim	SEPTA
Bartels, Stacy	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Beans, William	New Jersey Department of Transportation
Beck, Gordon	Buckle-Up PA
Bernacki, Lindsey	Delaware County TMA
Brahler, Richard	Bucks County Planning Commission
Bryant, Edward Lt.	Gloucester Township Police
Bucci, Larry	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Buerk, Jesse	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Dahlburg, Ted	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Donnelly, Maureen	SafeKids Southern New Jersey
Duchossois, Gina	SafeKids CHOP
Feggans, Charles	New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety
Ferraro, Donna	Philadelphia Public Health Management Corp.
Fiocco, Joe	McMahon Associates
Foulds, Alfred	Safe Streets
Gates, Matt	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Gluck, Jerry	AECOM
Hoffman, William	Federal Highway Administration – New Jersey
Hufnagle, Louis	Delaware County Planning Department
Iurato, Frank	New Jersey Transit Police
Kozak, Diane	Camden County Division of Highway Traffic Safety
Lawson, Matthew	Mercer County Planning
Marrero, Violet	New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety
Mason, Wayne, Sgt.	Pennsylvania State Police
Mitchell, Alesia	Philadelphia Public Health Management Corp.
Moore, Regina	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Monteleone, Carmella	PATCO
Moyo, Jabulani	Philadelphia Streets Department
Murphy, Kevin	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Nederland, Zoe	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
O'Hearn, Suzanne	New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety
Patel, Ashwin	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Ragozine, Bill	Cross County Connection TMA
Ratco, Wes	Montgomery County Planning Commission
Rauanheimo, Ray	AARP
Sano, Marc	Burlington County Sheriff's Department

Sexton, Derrick  
Spino, Sam  
Trimbell, Shayne  
Voluck, Ela  
Ward, John  
Ziemer, Karl  
Zito, Joe, Sgt.

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission  
Camden County Division of Highway Traffic Safety  
Greater Valley Forge TMA  
AAA Mid-Atlantic  
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission  
Delaware River Port Authority  
Delaware River Port Authority