Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD JUNE 6, 2000

- 1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by RTC Chair Carol Thomas. The Highlights of the May 9, 2000 meeting were approved as written.
- 2. Jack Claffey, DVRPC Assistant Executive Director for Transportation Planning, presented the highlights of the May 25, 2000 DVRPC Board meeting. The Board approved all TIP changes as presented, the list of Transportation Enhancements Projects, including a new project selected by the Secretary of PennDOT, the Kensington and Tacony Rail with Trail, and the list of CMAQ projects. The Board also amended the FY 01 Planning Work Program to include the Share-The-Road campaign and the Clean Air Council Telecommute project (Year II).
- 3. Judith Barnet, DVRPC Transportation Planner, presented the following TIP Amendment:

Amendment 9945: A City of Philadelphia request to add the Traffic Control - Miscellaneous project to the current TIP to replace their current open-ended contract for design consultant assistance for larger projects. The cost would be \$250,000 (\$200,000 federal, \$50,000 local) and would utilize funds from TIP# 9555, Schoolhouse Lane, which will not be ready for construction until 2001.

MOTION 0005-01: Shaffer SECOND: Brannigan

That the Board approve TIP Amendment 9945, the City of Philadelphia's request to amend the TIP to include the Traffic Control - Miscellaneous Design project at a total cost of \$250,000 (\$200,000 federal, \$50,000 local matching funds).

Motion passed. All votes were cast in favor of the motion.

- 4. Carol Thomas presented the slate for the Nominating Committee as follows: Richard Burnfield of SEPTA, Lee Whitmore of Chester County, Robert Hannigan of PennDOT, and Carol Thomas of Burlington County. Elections will be held for Chair and Vice Chair of the RTC at the July meeting and the new officers will preside at this meeting. The Chair for this Fiscal Year will be selected from among the Pennsylvania members.
- 5. Ronald Roggenburk, DVRPC Manager, Office of Air Quality Planning, and Steve Luxenberg, DVRPC Transportation Planner, presented the Business Survey conducted by staff to assess opinions of the business community on transportation issues and to try to make the Year 2025 plan more useful for economic development. A total of 359 surveys were returned out of 1,721 received by CEOs around the region. Questions included a range of commuter and goods movement issues. Some findings were relatively predictable, including the ability for employees to commute safely, and that the speed and dependability of trucks is critical to goods movement. When asked how

they would invest \$100.00 in transportation funds, responses were similar to those of the 2025 Plan Workshops, although somewhat more money was directed toward highway improvements. The draft report should be available soon.

- 6. Spencer Stevens, Federal Highway Administration Pennsylvania Division, presented an overview of the newly proposed federal regulations on planning and environment for the implementation of TEA-21. The regulations cover surface transportation investments, metropolitan and statewide planning, NEPA procedures for highways and transit, and ITS architecture and standards. A key federal priority is to streamline transportation decision making by strengthening the link between the planning and environmental processes. Comments may be submitted until August 23, 2000.
- 7. John Dawson, DVRPC Senior Transportation Planner, presented a status report of new rail, rail restoration, and rail extension projects in the region. Projects are proceeding through their various phases. A total of 13 projects were listed.
- 8. Spencer Stevens reported that the EPA found the conformity budget adequate on May 31, 2000, and therefore the TIP public comment period and approval processes may proceed on schedule.
- Charles Dougherty, DVRPC Associate Director of Transportation Planning, reported that the TIP public comment period is underway. In Pennsylvania, two meetings were held and two more are scheduled.
- 10. Next Meeting: July 11, 2000.

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION Meeting of June 6, 2000 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

ATTENDANCE:

<u>Voting Members</u> <u>Representative Present</u>

PA Department of Transportation Robert Hannigan, Greg Brown

PA Department of Environmental Protection (not represented)
PA Governor's Policy Office Greg Brown

NJ Department of Transportation

NJ Department of Environmental Protection

NJ Department of Community Affairs

Bucks County

David Johnson

Bucks County

Chester County

Lee Whitmore

Delaware County

Tom Shaffer

Montgomery County

Lauren Emes

City of Chester

(not represented)

Philadelphia Office of Transportation

Robert Ravelli

Philadelphia City Planning Commission Stephen Bartlett Philadelphia Department of Streets Tom Brannigan **Burlington County** Carol Thomas Camden County Gail P. Elbert Gloucester County Morris Bayer (not represented) Mercer County City of Camden (not represented) City of Trenton Hoggarth Stephen

Delaware River Port Authority

New Jersey Transit Corporation

Linda Hayes

Matt Ledger

Southeastern PA Transportation Authority

Delaware Valley Citizens' Transportation Committee

DVRPC Regional Citizens Committee

Dennis Winters

Non-Voting Members PresentRepresentativeNew Jersey TMAsWilliam RagozinePennsylvania TMAsPeter QuinnFederal Highway Administration - PA DivisionSpencer Stevens

Guests

Warren Stumpfer, Regional Citizens Committee

Illy Sobel - Delaware Valley Citizens' Transportation Committee

Hank D'Andrea - South Jersey Port Corporation

Jere Downs - Philadelphia Inquirer