

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 12, 2001
(POSTPONED FROM FEBRUARY 6, 2001)**

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by RTC Chair Lee Whitmore. The Highlights of the January 9, 2001 meeting were approved with the following change to the attendance record: Lorraine Brill, representing the Delaware Valley Citizens Transportation Committee was not in attendance.
2. Jack Claffey, DVRPC Assistant Executive Director for Transportation Planning, presented the highlights of the January 25, 2001 DVRPC Board meeting. The Board approved all TIP actions presented and also adopted the FY 2002 Planning Work Program, endorsed the Job Access funding reallocation, approved the East Coast Greenway TCSP application, and approved the funding for the Delaware County and Partnership TMAs' health care symposium.
3. Judith Barnet, DVRPC Transportation Planner, presented three TIP Actions as follows:

PA 0113: PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend and/or modify the TIP to reflect cost or schedule changes to seven existing or former projects:

- 1) US 202 Wetland Mitigation (TIP #5774, Bucks County) add a right-of-way phase to FY01 at a total cost of \$5.483 million. Shift the construction phase from FY01 to FY03;
- 2) South St. Bridges over I-76 (WB), Schuylkill River, & CSX (TIP #9684A, Phila.) add the final design phase back to the TIP at a total cost of \$3.3 million. Reduce the amount programmed for the right-of-way phase by \$650,000;
- 3) Old York Rd. Bridge (old TIP #5708, Bucks County) add the construction phase back to the TIP at a total cost of \$280,000;
- 4) US 1, Business Signal Improvements (TIP #5726, Buck County) add the preliminary engineering phase back to the TIP at a total cost of \$100,000;
- 5) PA 309, Ft. Washington Expressway (TIP #8599A, Montgomery County) add the final design phase back to the TIP at a total cost of \$6 million. Increase the amount programmed for the right-of-way phase from \$2.192 million to \$6 million;
- 6) PA309, Ft. Washington Expressway (TIP #8572C, Montgomery County) add the final design phase back to the TIP at a total cost of \$2.250 million. Add the right-of-way phase back to the TIP at a total cost of \$2.4 million. Shift \$10 million in construction funds from FY03 to "Later" fiscal years; and,
- 7) PA 309, Ft. Washington Expressway (TIP #8572A, Montgomery County) add the final design phase back to the TIP at a total cost of \$2.5 million. Add the right-of-way phase back to the TIP at a total cost of \$2.5 million. Shift a portion of the DEMO funding programmed for construction in FY02 to FY03. Shift \$20 million in construction funding from FY03 to FY04.

MOTION 0201-01: Bagley

SECOND: Hannigan

That the Board approve TIP Action PA0113, PennDOT’s request to amend or modify seven existing or former TIP projects, as outlined.

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

PA 0115: PennDOT’s request to add various phases of work on US 202 Section 400 to the TIP as follows:

- 1) US 202 Section 400 (TIP #8382A): Add a utility relocation phase at a total cost of \$11.5 million. This phase, which has already been let, was previously approved for \$18.6 million. However, the current estimate is \$30.1 million. The increase is due to the additional cost of a railroad siding, Verizon environmentally controlled access vaults, commitments to relocate a Sun Pipeline, and additional costs to relocate various PECO facilities;
- 2) US 202 Section 400 and 404 (TIP #8382A and #8382E): Increase the cost of the construction phase by \$9.7 million. The construction phase, which has already be let, was previously approved for \$105.6 million. However, the current estimate is \$115.3 million. The increase results from Class I excavation exceeding the estimate by \$1.3 million, pavement costs exceeding the estimate by almost \$3 million, and higher costs for mobilization and field offices: and,
- 3) US 202, Section 405 (TIP #8382C): Increase the cost of the construction phase by \$26 million. The balance of the funding approved for construction is \$13 million. However, the current cost estimate is \$39 million. As other portions of US 202 Section 400 were let, this project was used to fund any cost increases. It now must be replenished. In addition, the costs associated with traffic control on I-76, additional requirements of Norfolk Southern for the truss, and utility relocation have all increased since the 1998 estimate.

MOTION 0201-02: Hannigan

SECOND: Bagley

That the Board approve TIP Action PA0115, PennDOT’s request to modify the programmed amounts for the US 202 Section 400 project, as outlined.

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

NJ 0105: DRPA’s request that DVRPC amend the TIP by adding back the Embankment Restoration/Erosion Control project (old DB #DR015) at a total cost of \$1 million. This project had been on the TIP for the past several years, and DRPA has determined that additional funding is necessary to complete the project. Financial constraint will be maintained by reducing the amount programmed for the Linden Interlocking Rehabilitation project (DB #DR043) from \$2.5 million to \$1.5 million.

MOTION 0201-03: Brill

SECOND: Elbert

That the Board approve TIP Action NJ0105, DRPA’s request to add back the Embankment Restoration/Erosion Control project (old DB #DR015) at a total cost of \$1 million.

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

4. Ronald Roggenburk, DVRPC Manager, Office of Air Quality Planning, presented a FY 2001 Planning Work Program Amendment for the Telework Pilot Program for Emissions Trading project. Sponsored by Senator Santorum and funded by the National Environmental Policy Institute, the program seeks to offer emissions credits to businesses for VMTs saved by employees who telecommute instead of driving to work alone. DVRPC will coordinate efforts of the five southeastern Pennsylvania TMAs to promote this program to the business community.

MOTION 0201-04: Hannigan

SECOND: Bagley

That the Board amend the FY 2001 Planning Work Program to include the Telework Pilot Program for Emissions Trading project.

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

5. Richard Bickel, DVRPC Associate Director of Regional Planning, presented an overview of activities concerning release of the Draft Preliminary Land Use Plan for 2025. The Draft includes long term goals and a policy framework to achieve them. There are four key vision areas: to revitalize older places, provide growth management for growing areas, preservation of open space and farmland, and to enhance regional identity. The Board will be asked to release the Draft for a public comment period extending from March 12 to April 10. Public workshops will be held to determine implementation strategies. Board Adoption is scheduled for April.

MOTION 0201-05: Winters

Second: Hannigan

That the Board authorize staff to conduct public meetings and hold a 30-day public comment period on the preliminary Land Use and Transportation Plans.

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

6. Richard Bickel presented the status of the Job Access and Reverse Commute Competitive Grant Program. DVRPC mailed applications to over 200 organizations for this program. A total of \$900,000 is available from an FTA earmark. DVRPC received seven letters of intent to apply for FY 2001 funds from Pennsylvania organizations and three letters of intent for FY 2002 from New Jersey Applicants. Staff will evaluate the submissions for applicant qualifications and consistency of proposed programs with DVRPC's adopted Job Access and Reverse Commute Transportation Plan. Results of the evaluation will be presented to the Board.
7. John Madera, DVRPC Transportation Planner, presented an update on the Pennsylvania Transportation Enhancements-funded Share the Road Bicycle Safety Campaign. An advisory group convened January 18th to define the scope of the program. A geographically targeted, comprehensive program to include outreach to municipal officials and road users, and implementation of physical improvements, was recommended. A draft outline of the program will

be presented to the advisory group on Friday, February 23rd.

8. Ronald Roggenburk, presented an update of efforts underway for the Year 2025 Interim Transportation Plan. The Plan assumes \$36 billion will be available over the next 24 years of the Plan. Conformity tests were made for 2002, 05, 15, and 25, and most emissions levels are below established budgets. The Board Policy Committee approved the Draft on February 7. Board will be now be asked release the Draft on March 12, along with the Preliminary Land Use Plan, for a 30-day public comment period. The region's current plan expires April 10.
9. Roger Moog, DVRPC Manager of Aviation Planning, presented an update on the Draft Regional Aviation System Plan 2025 Update. The existing RASP was adopted in 1995. Since that time, new pressures have developed on the regional airport system which make an update necessary. This plan will become part of the Year 2025 Long Range Plan and will also be integrated into statewide airport systems plans in both Pennsylvania and New Jersey.
10. Next meeting: March 6, 2001

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Meeting of February 12, , 2001
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

ATTENDANCE:

Voting Members

PA Department of Transportation
PA Department of Environmental Protection
PA Governor's Policy Office
NJ Department of Transportation
NJ Department of Environmental Protection
NJ Department of Community Affairs
Bucks County
Chester County
Delaware County
Montgomery County
City of Chester
Philadelphia Office of Transportation
Philadelphia City Planning Commission
Philadelphia Department of Streets
Burlington County
Camden County
Gloucester County
Mercer County
City of Camden
City of Trenton
Delaware River Port Authority
New Jersey Transit Corporation
Southeastern PA Transportation Authority
Delaware Valley Citizens' Transportation Committee
DVRPC Regional Citizens Committee

Non-Voting Members Present

Pennsylvania TMAs
Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission
FTA Philadelphia Area Metro Office

Guests

No guests attended the meeting.

Representative Present

Robert Hannigan
(not represented)
Le Anne Fullard
Jerry Mooney, Al Prant
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
Lee Whitmore
Michael Farrell
Leo Bagley
(not represented)
Robert Ravelli
Stephen Bartlett
(not represented)
(not represented)
Gail Elbert
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
Anisah Abiola, Linda Hayes
Kathy Vossough
Catherine Popp-McDonough
Lorraine Brill
Dennis Winters

Representative

Peter Quinn
Walter Green
Robin Mayhew