

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD JULY 9, 2001**

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by RTC Chair Lee Whitmore. The Highlights of the June 12, 2001 meeting were approved with no changes.
2. Jack Claffey, DVRPC Assistant Executive Director for Transportation Planning, presented the highlights of the June 28, 2001 DVRPC Board meeting. The Board approved all TIP actions presented. The RTC meeting in October will be held off-site at a DRPA facility, and will include a tour of the Benjamin Franklin Bridge anchorage.
3. Charles Dougherty, DVRPC Associate Director of Transportation Planning, presented the final FY 2002-2004 TIP for New Jersey. The New Jersey Subcommittee has reviewed and addressed all comments received during the public comment period. The review resulted in few changes. The (get name from Chick) project was dropped due to lack of a lead agency, and statewide discretionary grant projects were dropped as the grants are still in the application phase. Should the grants be awarded the projects will be reinstated. Also, there was a technical clarification to include a glossary of terms and definitions. The document is now ready for Board action.

MOTION 0701-01: Elbert

SECOND: Williams

That the Board adopt the FY 2002-2004 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the New Jersey portion of the region as the region's official selection of transportation projects for federal funding.

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

4. Jack Claffey presented the application and approval schedule for the third round of Transportation Enhancements Program projects. This, the final round, will begin in August, when applications will be mailed and there will be three applicant workshops. Applications are due to Harrisburg by October 26, with project selection completed in May 2002. DVRPC will notify the applicants. PennDOT is providing for greater participation in the selection process by DVRPC. The Pennsylvania Subcommittee, RTC, and RCC will be included in project review and selection.

MOTION 0701-02: Bartlett

SECOND: Winters

That the RTC endorse the preliminary Transportation Enhancements Program project selection schedule.

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

5. Candace Snyder, DVRPC Public Affairs Officer, presented the Draft Public Participation Plan. The DVRPC Board adopted a Public Participation Plan in 1994 as part of the 2020 planning process to provide direction to Board members and staff when dealing with members of the public. This updated Plan encompasses ways to include the public as DVRPC carries out its mandates. The draft is now ready to be released for a 45-day public comment period.

MOTION 0701-03: Winters

SECOND: Brill

That the board release the DVRPC Public Participation Plan for a 45-day public comment period beginning July 30.

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

6. Rosemarie Anderson, DVRPC Transportation Planner, presented an overview on the Central Jersey Transportation Forum. The forum is a commitment to address issues which arose from the Millstone Bypass Congestion Management System study public participation process, and provides a way for all interested stakeholders to discuss transportation and land use issues. The area encompasses 17 municipalities in 3 counties, and is served by 2 MPOs. DVRPC coordinates the Forum, provides technical expertise, and advises on the issues identified by the members.
7. David Anderson, DVRPC Transportation Planner, presented an overview of the PATCO Parking Needs Assessment Study. PATCO ridership has remained steady over the last several years. To date, three surveys have been completed to determine the commutershed of all PATCO stations, customer profile and occupancy levels of all lots in the peak period. All surveys are being analyzed at this time. Meetings with municipal representatives are underway. At these meetings, municipalities are informed of the purpose and progress of the study. Local input is sought to inform the study team of municipal development initiatives and trends.
8. Joseph Hacker, DVRPC Transportation Planner, presented an update of DVRPC's External Trip Survey process. DVRPC undertakes this survey every 10 years to measure current trip making characteristics of drivers crossing the outer boundaries of the region. Surveys were taken at 15 points, based on functional class of the road facility, direction of traffic, vehicle type, and time of day. DVRPC staff had the cooperation of municipalities, police departments, and MPOs of the areas in which survey points were located, and required coordination with PennDOT, NJDOT, DELDOT. The collected data will be used for individual site reports, inputs for the regional simulation model, individual highway traffic analysis and as quantitative data supporting other agency projects.
9. Jack Claffey reported that the DVRPC and District 6-0 staffs finalized the work scope for the Bicycle Facilities on Existing Roadways project. The purpose is to work with municipalities to accommodate bicyclists needs on certain area roadways. He advised that a letter will be sent to the Pennsylvania Counties requesting "services in kind" match.
10. In an item of New Business, Jack Claffey presented the issue of Self Certification. A

resolution is adopted annually to certify that DVRPC's transportation planning process complies with all applicable federal legislation.

MOTION 0701-04: Hannigan

SECOND: Burnfield

That the Board adopt a Resolution certifying that the DVRPC transportation planning process is in conformance with federal regulations implementing TEA-21, the Clean Air Act Amendments, and other federal legislation.

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

11. Jack Claffey reviewed the US District Court's decision in the Buckingham Township US 202(700) case. The judge found that DVRPC, PennDOT, and FHWA acted properly and followed all regulations, and that there was no error of judgement on their part in determining the necessary improvements.
12. Jack Claffey reported that the State Transportation Commission hearings will be held for Southeastern Pennsylvania on October 12 at the Plymouth Meeting Doubletree hotel.
13. In an item of Old Business, Richard Burnfield of SEPTA reported that the FY 01 Jobs Access grants were awarded. There is a \$6 million federal earmark, with a \$6 million state match for FY 02. In FY 02 there is also a \$3 million earmark for New Jersey.
14. Gail Elbert of Camden County congratulated the DRPA for a successful Benjamin Franklin Bridge 75th birthday celebration on July 1. Approximately 50,000 people attended the event.
15. Next meeting September 11, 2001.

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Meeting of July 9, 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

Representative Present

Robert Hannigan
(not represented)
Greg Brown
Al Prant
(not represented)
(not represented)
David Johnson
Lou Hufnagel
Tom Shaffer
Susan Simkis
(not represented)
Robert Ravelli
Stephen Bartlett
(not represented)
Carol Thomas
Gail Elbert
(not represented)
Danielle Longerbone
Edward C. Williams
(not represented)
Anisah Abiola, Linda Hayes
(not represented)
Richard Burnfield
Lorraine Brill
Dennis Winters

Non-Voting Members Present

New Jersey TMAs
Pennsylvania TMAs

Representative
William Ragozine
Peggy Dawson Schmidt

Guests

Nancy Goldenberg, Tanya Seaman - Center City District
Warren Strumpfer - RCC
Howard Rosen - ALK Technologies, Inc.