

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD APRIL 9, 2002**

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by RTC Chair Carol Thomas. The Highlights of the March 12, 2002 meeting were approved with no changes.
2. Jack Claffey, DVRPC Assistant Executive Director for Transportation Planning, presented the highlights of the March 28, 2002 DVRPC Board meeting. The Board approved the TIP actions and work program amendments presented. DVRPC will be hosting a Housing conference on April 30, the Pennsylvania Rail Freight Conference on May 8-10, and will host an Awards Dinner on June 6.
3. Elizabeth Schoonmaker-Shepherd, DVRPC Transportation Planner, presented the following TIP actions:

TIP Action NJ02-10 - Delaware River Pedestrian/Bike Path (DB #551B) - Mercer

NJDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY 2002-2004 TIP for NJ by increasing FY02 and FY03 funding by \$1.1 million. As part of the Route 29 tunnel project, the current alignment for the path is adjacent to the municipal water treatment plant. Due to security concerns raised by the events of September 11, the City of Trenton wants NJDOT to examine a new alignment for this project. The DEP has also asked NJDOT to extend the existing limits. The request is to add \$600,000 to the FY02 FSD phase, and \$500,000 to the FY03 Design phase, using CMAQ funds in both instances. Both the right of way and design phases for the project will be deferred one year, with a \$100,000 increase included in the FY03 right of way phase.

MOTION 020301: Cuccia

SECOND: Johnson

That the Board approve TIP Action NJ02-10, NJDOT's request to modify the FY 2002-2004 TIP for NJ by increasing the FY02 FSD phase by \$600,000 and increasing the FY03 design phase by \$500,000 using CMAQ funds in both instances.

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

TIP Action PA01-65 - I-95, Bleigh Ave. to Academy Road (MPMS #47783) -Phila.

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY 2001-2004 TIP for PA by increasing the FY02 funding by \$5.6 million, programming an additional \$2.2 million (\$1.980 CMAQ/\$220,000 State) in the construction phase, and adding a utility phase of \$3.4 million (\$3.060 million Fed Bridge/\$340,000 State). PennDOT also requests a net increase of \$18,000,000 in FY 04 for a variety of construction cost increases, including measures for

maintenance and safety, increased estimates, and Construction Inspection costs. It is also proposed to change the match scenario from an 80/20 Federal/State split to 90/10 for the Bridge and Highway funds currently programmed.

MOTION 020302: Hannigan

SECOND: Burnfield

That the Board approve Action PA01-65, PennDOT's request to modify the FY 2001-2004 TIP for PA by adding \$2.2 million (\$1.980 CMAQ/\$220,000 State) in the FY02 construction phase and adding an FY02 utility phase of \$3.4 million (\$3.060 million Fed Bridge/\$340,000 State). In addition change the match scenario of the existing federal highway and bridge funds in FY02, FY03, and FY04 from an 80/20 match to 90/10 (Fed/State). Further, program a net increase of \$18 million in the FY04 construction phase (\$16,200,000 Fed Hwy/\$1.8 million State).

Motion passed. There was one abstention.

4. Charles Dougherty, DVRPC Associate Director of Transportation Planning, presented an amendment to the FY 2003 Planning Work Program to add the Statewide GIS Technical Assistance - PennDOT project for \$65,000, (\$52,000 SPL and \$13,000 SMLF) for DVRPC to administer a project to provide training and technical assistance to MPOs around the Commonwealth for using PennDOT's data sets. Penn State will provide the training.

MOTION 020303: Hannigan

SECOND: Whitmore

That the Board approve amending the DVRPC FY 2003 Planning Work Program to include project 3047-150: Statewide GIS Technical Assistance-PennDOT, in the amount of \$65,000 (\$52,000 PL and \$13,000 SMLF), with a termination date of June 30, 2003.

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

5. Barry Seymour, DVRPC Assistant Executive Director for Regional Planning presented an amendment to the FY 2003 Planning Work Program for a Land Use Assessment for the PA 423/513 corridor in Bucks County. This program will be a 2 year initiative to examine existing land use and transportation conditions in this corridor. The total budget is \$75,000 (\$60,000 SPL, \$7500 Bucks County and \$7500 DVRPC).

MOTION 020304: Hannigan

SECOND: Whitmore

That the Board approve amending the DVRPC FY 2003 Planning Work Program to include project 3-53-150: Assessment of Land Use and Transportation Solutions for the Route 413/513 corridor in southeastern Bucks County, in the amount of \$75,000 (\$60,000 SPL, \$7,500 Bucks County and \$7,500 DVRPC

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

6. Donald Shanis, DVRPC Deputy Director of Transportation Planning, reported that the Board will be asked to release the Draft TIP for Pennsylvania (FY 2003-2006), the Draft TIP for New Jersey (FY 2003-2005), and the Year 2025 Plan Update for a 30-day Public Comment Period at their next meeting.

The Plan Update includes the newly approved population forecasts, TCDI, a Homeland Security Policy, and draft implementation recommendations. Also, three new studies were added.

Charles Dougherty reviewed the Draft TIP documents. The PA and NJ subcommittees have worked since November to prepare the documents. Consistency, conformity, and constraint issues have been addressed. All of the draft documents will be posted on the DVRPC website, at numerous libraries around the region, notices will be placed in area newspapers, and public comment meetings will be held on May 15 at Camden County College, on May 22 and Columbia Station in Phoenixville, and on May 29 at DVRPC, where testimony will be accepted on all documents. Comments will also be accepted via e-mail.

MOTION 020305: Burnfield

SECOND: Whitmore

That the Board authorize staff to conduct public meetings and hold a 30-day public comment period on the amended and updated Year 2025 Land Use and Transportation Plan, and also authorize staff to open a 30-day public comment period for the purpose of gathering agency comments on the Draft Transportation Improvement Programs for Pennsylvania (FY2003-2006), and New Jersey (FY 2003-2005), to issue proper notification, to publish the draft TIPs on the Internet, to make copies available at certain public libraries, and to hold public meetings for the purposes of receiving testimony on all documents in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

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

7. Jerry Coyne, DVRPC Manager, Office of Transportation Studies, presented an overview of the Phoenixville Area Intermodal Transportation Study, a multi-municipal study addressing the greater Phoenixville area. The study involved a series of futures testing drawing on improvements from the TIP and Plan and other projects which are not part of the project development process. The study recommended a draft mobility improvement plan, with 79 improvements including highway, transit, multi-use trail projects, park-and-ride lots and other TDM strategies, and recommendations for additional studies.
8. Scott Brady, DVRPC Transportation Planner, presented a status report on the Pennsylvania Turnpike Slip Ramp projects. For the past several years, DVRPC has been working with the Pennsylvania Turnpike on developing forecasts for E-Z Pass utilization at several sites where E-Z Pass ramps are being studied to provide direct access to existing and planned major employment concentrations. A study at PA 29, designed to serve Great Valley, has recently been completed in conjunction with the Phoenixville Transportation Study. A Citizens Advisory Committee has recommended that ramps be constructed allowing all movements to

and from the turnpike. These ramps have been advanced to the design stage. A similar study along I-476, the Northeast Extension of the turnpike, examines slip ramps in the PA 113, Schultz Rd (Upper Gwynedd), and Blue Bell areas. These ramps are not as far advanced as those at PA 29, just now entering the public official and public review development phase.

9. The Following Status Reports were presented:

- Charles Dougherty reported that the Committee has been provided with a Quarterly Report of non-traditional project implementation efforts.
- Barry Seymour reported that New Jersey has received a \$700,000 earmark for 4 Jobs Access Reverse Commute projects. SEPTA has a \$6 million earmark, most of which is to continue ongoing projects, although there are 2 new initiatives. The Federal Register notice stated that earmarks may not be honored because projects should have been chosen competitively, and earmarks indicate there was no competition. The Subcommittees may need to be reconvened to address this issue.

9. Next Meeting: May 7, 2002.

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Meeting of April 9, 2002
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)
Le Anne Fullard
Brian Cuccia, Jerry Mooney
(not represented)
(not represented)
David Johnson
Lee Whitmore
Larry W. Stokes, Jr.
(not represented)
(not represented)
Robert Ravelli
(not represented)
Michelle Smith
Carol Thomas
(not represented)
Morris Bayer
Danielle Tucker
Robert Wisniewski
(not represented)
Anisah Abiola, Linda Hayes
(not represented)
Richard Burnfield
Lorraine Brill
Dennis Winters

Non-Voting Members Present

New Jersey TMAs
Pennsylvania TMAs
Keith Lynch

Representative

William Ragozine
Peter Quinn
Federal Transit Administration

Guests

Tanya Seaman - Center City District
Warren Strumpfer - RCC
Claudia Gordon, Andrea Jordan - City of Phila Dept of Streets
Roger Sager - Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission
Susan Best - Urban Engineers
Walter Green - Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission
Sue Herman - Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc.