

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 11, 2003**

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by RTC Chair Greg Brown. The Highlights of the January 7, 2003 meeting were approved with no changes.
2. Jack Claffey, DVRPC Assistant Executive Director for Transportation Planning, presented the highlights of the January 23, 2003 DVRPC Board meeting. The Board adopted the FY 2004 Work Program. SEPTA's request was tabled, but all other TIP amendments were approved. The Board Policy Committee reviewed the Draft Policy on Reauthorization, which included the RTC's comments, and made some additional comments. The revised Draft is on today's agenda.
3. Elizabeth Schoonmaker-Shepherd, DVRPC Transportation Planner, presented the following TIP actions:

Action PA0310-a: SEPTA's Automatic Vehicle Locator for Paratransit (MPMS#67666)

SEPTA has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a project back in to the TIP. Approved as a new TIP project last spring, this project provides for the installation of automatic vehicle locator devices, using Global Positioning Satellite technology, on SEPTA's Paratransit vehicles. The system does not currently have the efficient capability to locate vehicles that are misdirected, stuck in traffic or have broken down, which impacts service efficiency and reliability for SEPTA customers. The vehicle locator devices will interface with the existing system and will improve operations by transmitting the exact location of in-service Paratransit vehicles. This will provide real-time information to the control center for quick response to any service disruption. The request proposes the use of \$855,000 federal ITS earmark funds and a 50% local match.

Action PA03-10b - SEPTA's Schuylkill Expressway Corridor ITS (MPMS#66551)

SEPTA has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a project back in to the TIP. Approved in a previous TIP at a higher funding level, this request is to program an FY03 project cost of \$450,000 (\$225,000 DEMO ITS earmark funds/\$90,000 5307/\$135,000 Local Match. This project will expand on the Pilot Automatic Vehicle Locator project (TIP #S081). The intent is to equip an additional 24 buses with AVL devices for use on two Center City to King of Prussia bus routes (124 and 125.) Real time schedule information kiosks will be installed at key passenger waiting areas along these routes

MOTION 020301:Popp-McDonough

SECOND:Thomas

That the Board approve Action PA 0310a, SEPTA's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY2003-2006), by adding the Automatic Vehicle Locators for Paratransit project

(MPMS # 67666) back in to the TIP. This amendment will program \$855,000 Federal ITS earmark funds/ \$855,000 Local Match in FY 2003, and TIP Action PA03-10b, SEPTA's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY2003-2006), by adding the Schuylkill Expressway Corridor ITS project (MPMS # 66551) back in to the TIP. This amendment will program \$225,000 Federal ITS earmark funds/\$90,000 5307/\$135,000 Local Match in FY 2003.

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

Action PA0311a -2003 Reflective Pavement Marker Program - PENNDOT(MPMS #64634)

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project, the 2003 Reflective Pavement Marker Program. Currently in design, this project will require an FY03 construction phase of \$380,000 specially earmarked STP funds. The markers are being designed to withstand snowplow action and will be installed on state and local roads in the region.

Action PA0311b-I-95 Delaware Expressway Interchange at PA 332 (Bucks County) (MPMS #13518)

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding an FY03 right of way phase to this project. Three parcels constituting just under 20 acres are required in order to complete the interchange improvement project which calls for construction of a new ramp from PA 332 eastbound to I-95 northbound. The project will also relocate the existing I-95 northbound off-ramp to PA 332. PENNDOT's request would program \$1.850 million for ROW in FY03 (\$1.480 million DEMO/\$370,000 State.) This modification also serves to acknowledge additional DEMO funds available for this project which are being used for the land acquisition and also to increase the FY06 construction phase by \$710,000 (\$60,000 DEMO/ \$650,000 State.)

TIP Action PA03-11c - Route 41 ITS Technology Deployment (MPMS #64360)Chester County

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding this project back in to the TIP with a \$1.5 million construction phase (Federal funds) in FY03. This project is phase 2 of a Safety and Enforcement Initiative enacted to better monitor and enforce heavy truck traffic through the area. Funds would be used for the purchase and installation of equipment such as an advisory radio system, and devices for speed and traffic signal enforcement.

TIP Action PA03-11d - Betterments for Route 63 from PA 113 to PA 29 (MPMS #50646) Montgomery County

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by programming Betterment improvements on Route 63 from PA 113 to PA 29 with funds in FY03 for preliminary design (\$1.853 million HWY/\$463,000 Toll Credit) and FY05 for final design(\$1.355 million HWY/\$339,000 Toll Credit) using state toll credits as the state match. This

restoration project for the approximately 10 miles of roadway through Lower and Upper Salford Townships will include milling, overlay, and shoulder work. The design phase includes costs for surveying and environmental clearance.

TIP Action PA03-11e - Valley Willow Road (Bridge)(MPMS #14272) Chester County

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding this bridge replacement project back in to the TIP with a \$37,000 (\$29,000 State Bridge/\$8,000 Local) final design phase in FY03. The existing two lane bridge will be replaced in-kind.

MOTION 020302: Hannigan

SECOND:Noe

That the Board approve TIP Action PA 0133a, PENNDOT's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY2003-2006), by adding a new project in to the TIP, the Reflective Pavement Marker Program project (MPMS # 64634.) This amendment will program \$380,000 specially earmarked STP funds for construction in FY 2003; PA 0311b, PENNDOT's request to modify the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY2003-2006), by adding an FY03 right of way phase (\$1.480 million DEMO/\$370,000 State) and increasing the FY06 construction phase (\$60,000 DEMO/\$650,000 State) of the I-95 Interchange at PA 332 (MPMS #13518.) This modification also serves as a technical correction that acknowledges the correct level of DEMO funds available for this project; PA 0311c, TIP Action PA03-11c, PENNDOT's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY2003-2006), by adding the Route 41 ITS Technology Deployment project (MPMS # 64360) back in to the TIP. The amendment will program \$1.5 million HWY funds for construction in FY 2003; PA -311d, PENNDOT's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY2003-2006), by adding a new project, Betterment of Route 63 from PA 113 to PA 29 (MPMS # 50646.) This amendment will add an FY03 preliminary design phase (\$1.853 million HWY/\$463,000 Toll Credit Match) and an FY05 final design phase (\$1.355 million HWY/\$339,000 Toll Credit Match.); and, PA 0311e, That the Board approve TIP Action PA03-11e, PENNDOT's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY2003-2006), by adding the valley/Willow Road (Bridge) project (MPMS # 14272) back in to the TIP with an FY03 final design phase (\$29,000 State/\$8,000 Local Match.

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

TIP Action PA03-12a - 42nd Street Bridge (MPMS #17461)Philadelphia Streets Department

The Philadelphia Streets Department has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding this project back in to the TIP with a \$5.2 million construction phase in FY04 which will be advance constructed in FY03 (\$4.160 million Bridge/\$780,000 State/\$260,000 Local Match.) The project includes bridge deck replacement, guiderail improvements and related rehabilitation work. The arched bridge is located over Amtrak rail lines and will entail extensive coordination with that agency

MOTION 020303: Hannigan

SECOND: Thomas

That the Board approve TIP Action PA03-12a, the Philadelphia Street Department's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY2003-2006), by adding the 42nd Street Bridge project (MPMS # 17461) back in to the TIP with an FY04 construction phase (\$4.160 million Bridge/\$780,000 State/\$260,000 Local Match) which will be advance constructed in FY03.

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

TIP Action PA03-12b - Krewstown Road Bridge (MPMS #16785) Philadelphia Streets Department

The Philadelphia Streets Department has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding this project back in to the TIP with a \$400,000 preliminary engineering phase in FY04 (\$320,000 STU/\$80,000 Local Match.) The project has been on hold due to community opposition. The Krewstown Road Bridge is a very narrow bridge over the Pennypack Creek in Pennypack Park. The approach requires realignment to meet current standards and it is not suited for the traffic that passes over it on a daily basis. The City is requesting \$400,000 for a preliminary engineering phase to revisit and clarify the issues surrounding this project, including environmental and historic analyses of the bridge and the surrounding area. The goal is to have a finished project that addresses the sensitivities of the bridge, the surrounding environment and the community concerns, as well as provide a safe throughway for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

MOTION 020304: Smith

SECOND: Ravelli

That the Board approve TIP Action PA03-12b, the Philadelphia Street Department's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY2003-2006), by adding the Krewstown Road Bridge project (MPMS # 16785) back in to the TIP with an FY04 preliminary engineering phase (\$320,000 STU/\$80,000 Local Match.)

Motion passed. Two votes were cast against the motion.

TIP Action PA03-13 - Route 113 Heritage Corridor(MPMS #65132) Bucks and Montgomery Counties

Montgomery County has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2003-2006 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP using \$170,000 Public Land Highway Discretionary carryover DEMO funds for a study in FY03. The Route 113 Heritage Corridor is over 30 miles in length between the Schuylkill River in Montgomery County and PA Route 412 in Bucks County. With a heritage of farming and agricultural processing, the region's current development trends, particularly in areas surrounding the Routes 422 and 309 Expressways, are exerting strong growth pressure. A Land Use/ Transportation Study will evaluate present infrastructure needs, pair them with historic aspects of the region, and craft progressive land use and community planning goals.

MOTION 020305: Bagley

SECOND: Hannigan

That the Board approve TIP Action PA03-13, Montgomery County's request to amend the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY2003-2006), by adding a new project to the TIP, the Route 113 Heritage Corridor Study (MPMS # 65132.) This amendment will program \$170,000 specially earmarked Public Land Highway Discretionary funds in FY03.

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

Schoonmaker noted that TIP Action PA 03-14, a request from Drexel University that was in the mailed documentation, was withdrawn.

4. Jack Claffey presented an update of the Draft Policy on Reauthorization of the Federal Transportation Act. After last month's RTC meeting, the draft document was revised to incorporate the RTC's comments. The Board Policy Committee and full Board each made additional changes. Recommendations included maintaining the firewall, streamlining the environmental process, and increasing AMTRAK funding.

MOTION 020306: Noe

SECOND: Thomas

That the Board approve the draft Policy on Reauthorization of the Federal Transportation Act as written

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

5. Sarah Oaks, DVRPC Transportation Planner, presented the PennDOT Transportation Management Association Assistance Grant and Mobility Alternatives Program applications for FY 2004. For the Assistance Grants, each TMA may apply for up to \$160,000. Applications were submitted by the TMAs of Bucks, Chester, and Delaware Counties, as well as the Greater Valley Forge, Partnership, and Central Philadelphia TMAs. Work programs were prepared with the concurrence of their respective member governments. Performance reports will be based on an end of year "report card" to determine level of fulfillment of contract activities. Total budget for this program is \$960,000. There is a 20% match required.

MOTION 020307: Hannigan

SECOND: Brill

That the Board approve and forward to PennDOT for their approval the FY 2004 Transportation Management Assistance Grant applications for a program total of \$960,000 (\$768,000 CMAQ, \$192,000 Contractor Match).

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

The Mobility Alternatives Program work programs and budgets are unchanged from last year. Applications were submitted by the TMAs of Bucks, Chester, and Delaware Counties, as well as the Greater Valley Forge and Partnership TMAs, for \$67,450. The City of Philadelphia Office of

Strategic Planning requested \$77,750 and SEPTA applied for \$150,000. DVRPC is also included in this work program for Share-A-Ride and MAP marketing and administration. The total program budget is \$816,000 and requires a 20% match. Mr. Claffey remarked that the efforts previously expended on SAR by the TMAs would be redirected toward more effective TDMs, but that the SAR program would be sustained and readily expanded if gasoline shortages occurred again.

MOTION 020308: Brill

SECOND: Hannigan

That the Board approve and forward to PennDOT for their approval the FY 2004 Mobility Alternatives Program for a program total of \$816,000 (\$652,800 CMAQ, \$163,200 Contractor Match).

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

6. Brian Stritsky, NJ DOT Deputy State Transportation Engineer, gave a presentation on the new project pipeline process for NJ DOT. The old system of “one process fits all” was inefficient for smaller projects. Under the old system, most of the staff effort was towards the end of the project. Now, senior staff is more involved during the initial screening of problem statements delivered by the various management systems.
7. Joseph Hacker, DVRPC Transportation Planner, presented an overview of the Regional Rail project status report. There are currently 13 projects on the list in various stages of completion. Some of the listings are projects underway, some are projects which have been halted and are inactive, some are studies. It was noted that FTA recently published a national report on “new start” projects and that SVM was “not recommended.”
8. The Following Status reports were presented:
 - ! Jack Claffey reported that a Federal Certification Review was conducted at DVRPC. A report will be issued shortly, however the review team was pleased with DVRPC’s efforts.
 - ! Charles Dougherty, DVRPC Associate Director of Transportation Planning, reported on NJ TIP update process. Funding will be \$150 million for each of the next three years.
 - ! Donald Shanis, DVRPC Associate Director of Transportation Planning, reported that there is a potential for DVRPC to do a regional emergency management plan because of its ITS activities. Certain organizations, such as major charities, want a greater voice in planning for emergencies.
9. Next Meeting is March 11, 2003.

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Meeting of February 11, 2003
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 Strategic Planning
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
Brian Cuccia
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
Louis Hufnagle
Larry Stokes
Leo Bagley
(not represented)
Robert Ravelli
Deborah Schaaf
Michelle Smith
Carol Thomas
Curt Noe
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
Melissa Kaplan
Linda Hayes
(not represented)
Catherine Popp-McDonough
Lorraine Brill
Warren Strumpfer

Non-Voting Members Present

Pennsylvania TMAs

Representative

Peter Quinn

Guests

Anthony Santaniello, Andrea Jordan, Claudia Gordon, Lane Fike, John Lutz- City of Phila.
LeAnne Fullard - PennDOT
Laurie Actman - CPTMA
Sue Herman - RRTS
Kathleen Zubrzycki, Michelle Meaux - SEPTA
Jeremy Alvarez - Vollmer Associates
Roger Sager - DRJTBC

