

# **DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

## **PLANNING COORDINATING COMMITTEE/ REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**March 9, 2004 Meeting Highlights**

**DVRPC Conference Room, Philadelphia, PA**

### **1. Call to Order - Chairman's Comments**

Curt Noe, the RTC Chair, called the meeting to order. A possibility of holding the May 11<sup>th</sup> RTC meeting in conjunction with a ride on the new Southern New Jersey Light Rail line, the River Line, was discussed.

### **2. Transportation Director's Report**

Don Shanis stated that all proposed February 2004 TIP and Work Program amendments were approved by the Board. However, the motion for an RTC presence at the Board via a representative was not approved. One option suggested was to have the RTC Chairman give the RTC report at the Board meeting. The DVRPC Board Chairman appreciated the invitation to attend an RTC meeting. The RTC Planning Work Program and Transportation Survey results were reported and the top three choices for periodic updates were Year 2030 Transportation and Land Use Plan Development, Congestion and Intermodal Management Systems, and Transportation and Community Development Initiative Program. Updates on other work program projects may also be provided depending on availability and appropriateness. Richard Montanez representing the ITS Technical Task Force was introduced as a new non-voting RTC member. Upcoming dates to hold include the April 8<sup>th</sup> Rail Forum, April 19-21<sup>st</sup> for TransAction, and the May 19<sup>th</sup> DVRPC Annual Dinner.

### **3. Report on Regional Citizens Committee Activities**

RCC recommendations to the Board for February 26, 2004 were distributed. Warren Strumpfer reported that the RCC appreciated Mr. Gurick, the DVRPC Board Chair, attending their meeting. The RCC voiced concerns regarding the Hellertown-Bethlehem Rail Abandonment Notice and is encouraging preservation of the rail corridor. The RCC rejects the concept of the Stoopville Road Rehabilitation Project as it exacerbates the public safety and believes the area would be better served through traffic calming measures.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**4. Highlights of the Meeting of February 10, 2004**

The highlights from the February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the PCC/RTC were presented for adoption.

**Motion:** *by Leo Bagley, seconded by Carol Thomas, to adopt the PCC/RTC meeting highlights as presented.*

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

**5. DVRPC Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Elizabeth Schoonmaker presented six TIP amendments which were submitted for consideration.

**a. TIP Action PA03-48: East Coast Greenway / Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Across Route 13, Bucks County (MPMS #65922)**

Bucks County requested to amend the FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2003-2006) by changing the sponsor of this project (MPMS #65922) from the Clean Air Council to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). The title will also be changed from the East Coast Greenway to "Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Across Route 13" and a \$500,000 construction phase will be programmed in FY04.

**b. TIP Action PA03-49: Market Street Gateway Phase 2, Delaware County (New Proposed Project)**

Delaware County requested to modify the FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2003-2006) by adding a new project to the TIP. The Market Street Gateway Phase 2 project programs a \$70,000 locally funded preliminary engineering phase in FY04.

**Motion:** *by Richard Brahler, seconded by Warren Strumpfer, to approve TIP Actions PA03-48 and PA03-49 to amend the FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding the above projects.*

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

c. **TIP Action NJ04-06a: Route 168 / 41 Runnemede Drainage, Route 41 to Sixth Avenue, Camden County (DB #95059)**

NJDOT requested to modify the FY 2004 TIP for New Jersey (FY2004-2006) by federalizing the Route 168 / 41 Runnemede Drainage, Route 41 to Sixth Avenue (DB #95059) and programming a \$4.570 million STP funded construction phase in FY04. This action removes the \$6.5 million state funded construction phases in FY04 (\$1.2 million) and FY05 (\$5.3 million).

d. **TIP Action NJ04-06b: Local Safety Initiatives, New Proposed Project (DB #04314)**

NJDOT requested to modify the FY 2004 TIP for New Jersey (FY2004-2006) by adding a new project, Local Safety Initiatives (DB #04314). This action programs a \$150,000 construction phase in FY04 using STP-Safety funds.

e. **TIP Action NJ04-06c: East Windsor - Bear Brook Bicycle Path, Mercer County, (DB #98536)**

NJDOT requested to amend the FY 2004 TIP for New Jersey (FY2004-2006) by adding a project back into the TIP. The East Windsor - Bear Brook Bicycle Path (DB #98536) programs a \$217,000 DEMO funded construction phase in FY04.

f. **TIP Action NJ04-07: IdleAire Advanced Travel Center Electrification (DB #D0404)**

NJDOT requested to amend the FY 2004 TIP for New Jersey (FY2004-2006) by changing the location of a project. The location of the IdleAire Advanced Travel Center Electrification project (DB #D0404) will change to Bordentown in Burlington County.

**Motion:** *by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by Morris Bayer, to approve TIP Actions NJ04-06a, NJ04-06b, NJ04-06c and NJ04-07 to amend the FY 2004 TIP for New Jersey by adding the above projects.*

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

**PRESENTATION ITEMS****6. PA State Fiscal Year 2003-2007, Airport Capital Program, DVRPC Regional Portion**

Reiner Pelzer, DVRPC Aviation Planner, summarized the newly implemented DVRPC process for project selection of airport grants. Regional priority projects will be incorporated into PENNDOT airport capital programming on an annual basis.

**INFORMATION ITEMS****7. PA/NJ TIP Updates**

This year both Pennsylvania and New Jersey are participating in the TIP update process. Charles Dougherty provided an update on the development of the FY2005-2008 TIP for PA, and the FY2005-2007 TIP for NJ. Pennsylvania subcommittee met four times and is awaiting comments and spike notification on March 15<sup>th</sup>. The transit program is awaiting a SEPTA update. New Jersey subcommittee met two times. 43 applications have been received and field views and scoring have started. Both TIP selections are on target for May public comment. In addition, the Air Quality Interagency Group met to review parameters/assumptions and to work on new air quality codes.

**8. Public Hearings on Norfolk Southern and CSX Acquisition of Conrail**

Ted Dahlburg described two public hearings (April 2 and May 3, 2004) to be held by the Surface Transportation Board (STB) regarding the Norfolk Southern and CSX acquisition of Conrail. June 1, 2004 marks the fifth anniversary of the Conrail Split Date, and the hearings will provide a forum to express views on the progress of the implementation of the Conrail transaction. The first hearing in Trenton, NJ addresses the three Shared Asset Areas including Philadelphia/South Jersey. A meeting will be held on Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm at DVRPC for discussions in preparation for the hearings.

**9. Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) Program**

An additional \$85,000 in JARC funds has become available to eligible recipients in the Delaware Valley region. The PA JARC subcommittee will be meeting to review the eligible projects and make recommendations to the DVRPC Board. Patty Elkis briefed the PCC/RTC on the eligibility and allocation of these funds.

**10. DVRPC's Land Use Data**

Staff recently completed creating the Year 2000 regional land use file, based on the Commission's 2000 Digital Orthophotography. Mary Bell described the method and available land use data.

## **LUNCH**

### **11. DVRPC's Educational Video**

DVRPC completed a video entitled *Creating Tomorrow Today*, that will play a dual role during the coming year. It will serve as an introduction to citizens throughout the region, informing them about DVRPC and how they can get involved in regional decision-making. It will also be used by Commission staff as a presentation piece at speaking engagements. The CD, which will be available in mid-March, includes an 11-minute video, as well as twenty "still pages", which provide more in-depth information on specific DVRPC projects and programs. DVRPC's Public Affairs staff will be forwarding the CD to more than 500 neighborhood organizations, special interest groups, citizens, and libraries throughout the region in the next few months.

### **12. Mercer County Airport Multi-modal Transportation Study**

This current DVRPC study examines the multiple transportation modes serving the area around the Mercer County Airport. Dr. Joseph Hacker provided an overview of rail, bus, airplane, and shuttle services in the study area. Remarks included the potential for integrated transportation to meet current and future development in Ewing and Hopewell Townships in New Jersey and Yardley Township in Pennsylvania.

### **13. One Minute Reports**

PCC/RTC Members and guests provided updates on the activities of their agencies.

### **14. Meeting Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting of the PCC/RTC is April 6, 2004.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Voting Members**

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

**Representative**

Richard Brahler  
Carol Thomas  
Curt Noe  
Lee Whitmore  
(not represented)  
(not represented)  
(not represented)  
Justin Dula  
Linda Hayes  
Warren Strumpfer  
Lorraine Brill  
Morris Bayer  
Nick Angarone  
Leo Bagley  
Jerry Mooney  
(not represented)  
(not represented)  
James Schwarzwalder  
(not represented)  
Robert Hannigan  
Greg Brown  
Anthony Santaniello  
Michelle Webb  
Kenneth Lomax  
Catherine Popp-McDonough

**Non-Voting Members**

Delaware Valley Goods Movement Task Force  
Federal Highway Administration - NJ division  
Federal Highway Administration - PA division  
Federal Transit Administration - Region III  
ITS Technical Task Force  
NJ Turnpike Authority  
New Jersey TMAs  
Pennsylvania Bus Association  
Pennsylvania TMAs  
Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission  
Philadelphia Regional Port Authority  
Pottstown Urban Transit  
South Jersey Port Corporation  
South Jersey Transportation Authority

**Representative**

Kelvin MacKavanagh  
(not represented)  
(not represented)  
Keith Lynch  
Richard Montanez  
(not represented)  
William Ragozine  
(not represented)  
Peter Quinn  
(not represented)  
(not represented)  
(not represented)  
(not represented)  
(not represented)

**ATTENDANCE (cont'd)**

US EPA - Region II (not represented)  
US EPA - Region III (not represented)

**Other Member Representatives and Guests**

Annemarie Byrnes - Milligan & Co., LLC  
Justin Gattorno - PENNDOT  
Claudia Gordon - City of Philadelphia  
Sue Herman - RRTS, Inc.  
Andrea Jordon - City of Philadelphia  
Rajendra Patel - PENNDOT  
Pierre Ravacon - Baker Engineering  
Roger Sager - DRJTBC  
Peggy Schmidt - PTMA  
Kathleen Zubrzycki – SEPTA

**DVRPC Staff**

Kathleen Belmonte  
Ted Dahlburg  
Charles Dougherty  
Patty Elkis  
Jacob Malikkal  
Linda McNeffer  
Roger Moog  
Reiner Pelzer  
Elizabeth Schoonmaker  
Donald Shanis  
John Ward  
Thabet Zakaria