

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

PLANNING COORDINATING COMMITTEE/

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

June 8, 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. He thanked everyone for all their support over the past year. He also thanked Carol Thomas and Linda Hayes again for their work in choreographing last months meeting and train excursion. In addition, he welcomed Jerry Lutin from New Jersey Transit and Bill Roman from PADOT.

2. Transportation Director's Report

Don Shanis stated that all proposed May 2004 TIP and Work Program amendments were approved by the Board. He informed the members that the May 19th Annual Dinner was a success. In addition, he reminded everyone of the June 16th rail conference, "A Forum on New Transit and Transit-Oriented Development".

3. Report on Regional Citizens Committee Activities

RCC recommendations to the Board for May 27, 2004 were distributed. Warren Strumpfer said that the alternate meeting site for the PCC/RTC was nice and he proposed additional meetings at alternate sites. He informed members that nine RCC members have volunteered to attend the transit forum in June. He stated that in order to deal with the issues of the Route 9 Corridor, the lack of use of the railroad right-of-way should be addressed. The RCC appreciates the consideration given to their recommendations to the TIP and the long range plan. The RCC is suggesting better coordination with PATCO. The RCC stated its concern that the public is not allowed on the task force for the Schuylkill Valley Metro. They also pointed out the fact that for the third year of the NJ TIP, there is a lack of funding. The RCC is also urging DVRPC to support a resolution for utilizing the rail alternative for transport from quarry areas.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Highlights of the Meeting of May 11, 2004

The highlights from the May 11th meeting of the PCC/RTC were presented for adoption.

Motion: by Brian Cuccia, 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 two TIP amendments which were submitted for consideration.

- a. TIP Action PA03-57: FTA Section 5310 Program Capital Assistance, PENNDOT and Various Counties (MPMS #62150)

PENNDOT requested to amend the FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2003-2006) by adding funds into the TIP for the FTA's Section 5310 Program (MPMS #62150). This amendment will program a total of \$1.418 million (\$1,134,660 Section 5310 funds/\$283,660 Local Match) in FY04.

Motion: by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by Bob Hannigan, to approve TIP Action PA03-57 to amend the FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding funds into the TIP for the FTA's Section 5310 Program for a total of \$1.418 million (\$1,134,660 Section 5310 funds/\$283,660 Local match) in FY04.

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

- b. TIP Action NJ04-18: Paulsboro Brownsfield Access, Gloucester County (DB #04321)

NJDOT requested to amend the FY 2004 TIP for New Jersey (FY2004-2006) by adding a new project, the Paulsboro Brownsfield Access project (DB #04321). This amendment will program a \$500,000 FA phase in FY04 and a \$500,000 PD phase in FY06 using specially earmarked DEMO funds.

Motion: by Morris Bayer, seconded by Warren Strumpfer, to approve TIP Action NJ04-18 to amend the FY 2004 TIP for New Jersey by

programming a \$500,000 FA phase in FY04 and a \$500,000 PD phase in FY06 using specially earmarked DEMO funds.

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

6. Election of FY 2005 Officers

The PCC/RTC nominating committee presented a slate of candidates for FY 2005 committee action. The nominating committee recommended Michelle Webb of the City of Philadelphia Streets Department for Chair and Brian Cuccia of New Jersey DOT for Vice Chair.

Motion: by Catherine Popp-McDonough, seconded by Kenneth Lomax, to approve the election of FY 2005 PCC/RTC Officers.

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

7. Annual Self-Certification of the Regional Transportation Planning Process

Federal regulations require that the Metropolitan Planning Organization self-certify that the Regional Transportation Planning Process is carried out in conformance with applicable federal regulations. Don Shanis presented its recommendation for Board adoption.

Motion: by Lee Whitmore, seconded by Linda Hayes, to recommend that the Board approve the adoption of the annual self-certification of the Regional Transportation Planning Process with the understanding that progress with the coordination of agencies would be included in the documentation.

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

8. Adoption of Plan Amendments

Federal law requires the Metropolitan Planning Organization to provide the public with an opportunity to comment before it adopts any amendment to the long range transportation plan. DVRPC conducted a 30-day public comment period for four Plan amendments that ended on June 3, 2004. Mike Boyer presented the comments received and a recommendation for Board adoption.

Motion: by Brian Cuccia, seconded by Warren Strumpfer, to recommend that the Board approve the adoption of the plan amendments to the long range transportation plan.

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

9. Adoption of the DVRPC FY 2005 TIP for New Jersey and Pennsylvania

Federal law requires the development of a Transportation Improvement Program for the metropolitan region to become eligible for federal transportation funds. The 30-day public comment period for the Draft DVRPC FY 2005 TIP for NJ and PA closed on June 3, 2004. Charles Dougherty presented a summary of the public comment process. Copies of all agency and public comments, including the RCC comments, were provided to the RTC. He explained that final recommendations on changes to the draft for final Board adoption may need to be addressed by the NJ and PA Subcommittees, since these comments were just presented.

Motion: by Greg Brown, seconded by Bob Hannigan, to recommend that the Board approve the adoption of the DVRPC FY 2005 TIP for New Jersey and Pennsylvania and the conformity determination, with the understanding that the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Subcommittees have a chance to provide further comments on final recommendations.

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

10. Approval of Transportation Enhancements (TE) Projects for Inclusion in the DVRPC TIP for Pennsylvania

The PA TE Subcommittee recommends approval of an identified set of TE projects, and Board amendment of the current DVRPC FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania to include the PENNDOT approved Transportation Enhancement projects, the selected Transit Transportation Enhancement projects, and the modification of the funding for projects receiving Supplemental TE funding.

Motion: by Bob Hannigan, seconded by Catherine Popp-McDonough, to recommend that the Board approve the identified Transportation Enhancements (TE) Projects and amend the current DVRPC FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania to include the PENNDOT approved TE projects, the selected Transit TE projects, and the modification of the funding for projects receiving Supplemental TE funding.

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

11. Fiscal Year 2005 DVRPC Unified Planning Work Program Amendment

John Ward presented a work program addition for consideration.

a. Deptford Regional Retail Center Traffic Analysis

The New Jersey Department of Transportation asked DVRPC to design, conduct, and analyze an origin/destination survey of motorists at and around the Deptford retail center and to prepare a travel simulation of the area which will produce traffic projections on the area's roadway network. This effort, the Deptford Regional Retail Center Traffic Analysis, will be funded by NJDOT for program \$250,000 in FY05.

Motion: by Morris Bayer, seconded by Warren Strumpfer, to amend the FY 2005 DVRPC Unified Planning Work Program by adding a new study, The Deptford Regional Retail Center Traffic Analysis for \$250,000 in FY05.

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

PRESENTATION ITEM

12. Region-wide Transportation GIS Project

William Stevens, GIS Manager at DVRPC, and David Johnson, Director, GIS/Transportation at the Bucks County Planning Commission, presented an overview of the Region-wide Transportation GIS project. A brief history of the project, including recent accomplishments, was presented along with future objectives. Bucks County staff provided their perspective on the benefits achieved through participation in this project.

13. 2000 Data Bank for Transportation Planning

Matt Gates presented highlights of DVRPC's socio-economic data for transportation planning. The data included population, households, auto ownership, employed persons (workers), and employment (jobs) at the county, municipal, and zonal levels.

INFORMATION ITEMS

14. UPlan GIS Transportation / Land Use Model Presentation and Training Sessions

A detailed presentation of UPlan will be made at the July 13, 2004 PCC/RTC meeting by Dr. Johnston of the University of California, DVRPC's consultant on UPlan. In addition, UPlan training sessions for interested planning and GIS professionals will be conducted by Dr. Johnston and his staff on July 14th.

15. Integrating Freight into the Planning Process

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) staff will present an executive level overview on integrating freight into the planning process at the July 13th meeting of the PCC/RTC.

16. Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI)

Barry Seymour briefed the committee about the 2004 TCDI funding round. \$1.5 million is available to eligible municipalities. All applications are due by July 23rd.

17. Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC)

Karen Cilurso briefed the committee on the 30% reduction in Department of Public Welfare (DPW) funds available for the program. DPW traditionally has provided the 50% match required by JARC to fund various routes throughout PA. This reduction will affect the upcoming JARC round and have spillover effects on existing services. A meeting was held of the JARC subcommittee and subrecipients to find this 30% cut, which equals \$1.25 million. \$900,000 has been cut already and \$360,000 still needs to be cut. All changes to approved JARC routes are due by June 15th to SEPTA. Staff will return to the RTC in July and provide the final details on JARC routes.

18. One Minute Reports

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

19. Old Business and New Business**a. Home Town Streets and Safe Routes to School**

Jacob P. Malikkal informed the committee of the new Pennsylvania Statewide Program Home Town Streets (HTS) and the Safe Routes to School (SRS) program. The HTS program will include a variety of streetscape improvements that are vital to reestablishing our downtown and commercial centers and the (SRS) program designed to work with both school districts and pedestrian and bicycle safety advocates to make physical improvements that promote safe walking and biking passages to our schools. This program is to be funded with \$16 million available to the DVRPC region through PENNDOT over the next four years. The current deadline for the first round of applications is August 1st, 2004. A request was made to form a selection committee comprising of members of the Pennsylvania TE subcommittee for establishing scoring criteria and project selection under this new HTS/SRS Program.

Motion: *by Michelle Webb, seconded by Greg Brown, to approve the project selection committee for the Home Town Streets and Safe Routes to School.*

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

b. Sign Improvement Projects

“A 30-second Success Story” sign improvement program requested that Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) permit the use of federal funds for Sign Improvement projects. These requests to FHWA have been denied. A request was made to have DVRPC staff reach out to FHWA to determine why requests for federal funds for sign improvement projects as safety issues have been denied.

Motion: *by Carol Thomas, seconded by Morris Mayer, to approve the request to have DVRPC staff reach out to FHWA to determine why requests for federal funds for sign improvement projects as safety issues have been denied.*

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

20. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting of the PCC/RTC is July 13, 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

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

David Johnson
Carol Thomas
Curt Noe
Lee Whitmore
(not represented)
(not represented)
Judy Adams
Matt Baumann
Linda Hayes
Warren Strumpfer
(not represented)
Morris Bayer
Nick Angarone
Leo Bagley
Brian Cuccia
(not represented)
(not represented)
Jerry Lutin
(not represented)
Robert Hannigan
Greg Brown
(not represented)
Michelle Webb
Kenneth Lomax
Catherine Popp-McDonough

Representative

Kelvin MacKavanagh
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
Rich Montanez
(not represented)
William Ragozine
(not represented)
Peter Quinn
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
Hank D'Andrea
(not represented)

ATTENDANCE (cont'd)

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

Other Member Representatives and Guests

Eric Cheung - Clean Air Council/GPCCP
Ernest Cohen - RCC
Claudia Gordon - City of Philadelphia
Sue Herman - RRTS
Andrea Jordan - City of Philadelphia
Kathy Reynolds - CCPC
Roger Sager - DRJTBC
Kathleen Zubrzycki – SEPTA

DVRPC Staff

Kathleen Belmonte
Mike Boyer
Karen Cilurso
Charles Dougherty
Jonathan Ferullo
Matt Gates
Doug Giuliano
Jean McKinney
Jacob Malikkal
Elizabeth Schoonmaker
Barry Seymour
Donald Shanis
Will Stevens
John Ward
Thabet Zakaria