

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

PLANNING COORDINATING COMMITTEE/ REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

January 4, 2005 Meeting Highlights

DVRPC Conference Room, Philadelphia, PA

1. Call to Order - Chairman's Comments

Michelle Webb, the RTC Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. She also welcomed new members, Linda Guarini, replacing Greg Brown at PennDOT Region 6; Pete Scirrotto, from Gloucester County; and Thomas A. Caramanico, from the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce.

2. Transportation Director's Report

Don Shanis informed RTC members that the DVRPC Board Retreat held on December 9th at the Airport Marriott went smoothly with both US Air and South West Airlines making presentations to the Board. He stated that the Board passed all RTC action items at its regular meeting. He said that the educational film "The End of Suburbia: Oil Depletion and the Collapse of The American Dream", originally screened on December 15 by the DVRPC RCC, would be available to PCC/RTC members in DVD form from DVRPC's library or by contacting Candy Snyder, DVRPC's Director of Public Affairs.

He informed members of PENNDOT's State Mobility Plan, which will consider transportation's role in economic development, community, environmental and quality of life issues. The plan will place increased focus on alternatives and connections among transportation modes, such as air, highway and rail, and will examine ways to make the best use of limited funds. He said that PENNDOT had requested 5 to 10 volunteers from the PCC/RTC to form a focus committee group that would help guide the extensive public outreach to different constituencies to be held in March. A meeting of this volunteer group has been scheduled for the January 21. Three members immediately volunteered- Linda Hayes, Kelvin MacKavanagh, and Laurie Actman. Others wishing to volunteer were told to contact Don Shanis. He also informed members of upcoming meetings/important dates (listed below):

- January 9-13: Transportation Research Board, Washington, D.C.

- January 20: Delaware Valley Goods Movement Task Force. In concert with the meeting, the Atlanta Regional Commission will visit DVRPC for a freight planning peer-to-peer exchange sponsored by FHWA.
- January 25: Traffic Club of Philadelphia Annual Dinner where John Coscia will be honored as Transportation Person of the Year.
- February 7: 3rd Annual New Jersey Transportation Conference, Trenton.

3. Report on Regional Citizens Committee Activities

Lorraine Brill reported on the re-election of Dennis Winters to a third term as RCC Chairperson and the submission of rebuttals to agencies responses to RCC comments regarding the FY 2006 TIP, and requested a visit from state representatives to explain the determination of budgets in the transportation conformity process. She also said that the RCC had approved a resolution to rescind its approval of the Cramer Hill/Pennsauken Waterfront Access and Truck Management Study.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Highlights of the Meeting of November 9, 2004

The highlights from the November 9 meeting of the PCC/RTC were presented for adoption.

Motion: by Brian Cuccia, seconded by Lorraine Brill, 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 NJ05-02a: I-295 / Rt. 42 / I-76 Direct Connection (DB #355), Camden County

NJDOT requested to amend the FY 2005-2007 TIP for New Jersey by increasing the feasibility assessment phase (FA) of the I-295/ RT. 42/

I-76 Direct Connection project by \$1.362 million Interstate Maintenance (IM) funds.

- b. TIP Action NJ05-02b: Route 130, Kinkora Branch Bridges, Removal (DB #98346), Burlington County

NJDOT requested to modify the FY 2005-2007 TIP for New Jersey by changing the funding source of the Route 130 Kinkora Branch Bridge Removal project from \$5.889 million in state funds for construction in FY 05 to the same amount in federal bridge funds.

- f. TIP Action NJ05-03: Route 44 Mantua Creek Bridge, (DB# 02332), Camden County

NJDOT requested to amend the FY 2005-2007 TIP for New Jersey by changing the funding source of the Route 44 Mantua Creek Bridge project from \$3.915 million in state funds for construction to federal funds. The action would program \$3.205 federal bridge funds in FY 05 for construction with an additional \$2 million specially earmarked DEMO funds designated for the project, yielding \$5.205 million in FY05 for construction.

Motion: by Brian Cuccia, seconded by Lorraine Brill, to approve TIP Actions; NJ05-02a to amend the FY 2005-2007 TIP for New Jersey by increasing FA funds for the I-295/ RT. 42/ I-76 Direct Connection project (DB#355) by \$1.362 million IM funds; NJ05-02b and NJ05-03 to change the funding source for Route 130 Kinkora Branch Bridge Removal project and Route 44 Mantua Creek Bridge project from state funds to federal bridge funds in FY05 for construction.

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

- c. TIP Action PA05-09: Lancaster Ave. (US Route 30) Closed Loop Traffic Control System (MPMS #14767), Delaware County

Delaware County requested to amend the FY 2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a project back into the TIP and programming funds for the Lancaster Avenue (US Route 30) Closed Loop Traffic Control System project. Radnor Township would fund and advance the engineering phase of the project and Delaware County \$100,000 in

local funds so that a PENNDOT manager would be assigned to the project.

- d. TIP Action PA05-10: Ben Franklin Bridge (Philadelphia) Operational Improvements (New Proposed Project, MPMS #72597), DRPA/PATCO

DRPA/PATCO requested to amend the FY 2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project into the TIP with \$5 million specially earmarked DEMO funds. This funding is to be provided through FHWA Section 115 funds which require no local match.

- e. TIP Action PA 05-11: Belfield Avenue Signal Improvements (MPMS #48194), Philadelphia

The City of Philadelphia requested to amend the FY 2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a project back into the TIP and programming \$1.760 CMAQ/\$440,000 local match for the Belfield Avenue Signal Improvement project.

Motion: by David Johnson, seconded by Kenneth Lomax, to approve TIP Actions PA05-09, PA05-10 and PA 05-11 to amend the FY 2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding the Lancaster Ave. Closed Loop Traffic Control System (MPMS #14767), the Ben Franklin Bridge Operational Improvements (MPMS #72597), and the Belfield Avenue Signal Improvements (MPMS #48194).

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

6. \$9.8 Million “Flex” of Federal Highway Funds to Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) for Operating Budget Relief

Don Shanis said that SEPTA’s financial crisis had precipitated a series of proposed drastic service reductions and fare increases to meet its fiscal shortfall. The action requested was to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve Governor Ed Rendell proposal of interim funding plan for the transit operator. This would entail the deferral of \$9.8 million in federal highway “flex” funds from four identified PENNDOT projects: PA 413 (MPMS #13576), Oxford Valley Road (MPMS #13635), and Callowhill Road Bridge (MPMS #12942) in Bucks County, as well as PA 309 (MPMS #16477) in Montgomery County. This temporary deferral of SEPTA’s proposed measures would allow time to convene a special session of the Legislature in Harrisburg to try and

identify a more permanent solution to the current crisis. Rich Burnfield also gave the committee a comprehensive review of the steps SEPTA took to adopt the proposed measures to solve its fiscal crisis. Leo Bagley stated that although he would vote in favor of the requested action, he felt this temporary measure was setting a bad example to other transit operators in the state.

Motion: by Bob Hannigan, seconded by Leo Bagley, to recommend that the DVRPC board approve PENNDOT's request that \$9.8 million of "flex" federal highway funds be used for SEPTA operations as a stop gap measure to forestall service cuts and fare increases.

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

7. DVRPC Fiscal Year 2006 Planning Work Program

John Griffies presented the FY 2006 Work Program which was distributed to the membership before the meeting for review and comment. The action requested was to recommend that the DVRPC Board adopt the 2006 Work Program pending the resolution of any comments by PCC/RTC members. There was a lengthy discussion at the meeting concerning TIP funding for projects in the proposed FY2006 Work Program. A number of the PA counties were concerned that too much money is being drawn away from construction projects for studies and that the PCC/RTC was being asked to recommend adoption of the Work Program without knowing which TIP projects would have to be deferred to provide the funding. The discussion concluded with an agreement that the District would quickly compile a proposed Financial Constraint Chart to cover the TIP-funded projects in the Work Program, followed by a meeting of the PA Subcommittee on January 24 at 1:00 PM at King of Prussia to resolve the matter.

PENNDOT advised that the PA portion of the FY2005 Aerial Photography project may yet be covered by Supplemental PL funds, but that the action should go forward assuming TIP funding for now.

NJDOT said that they can provide the funding to cover the additional NJ costs and will advise DVRPC of the details before the Board meeting.

Motion: by Bob Hannigan, seconded by Leo Bagley, to recommend that the Board adopt the FY2006 Unified Planning Work Program including a change to the Pennsylvania Transit Support Program, conditioned on the resolution of the source of funds from the FY2005 TIP for both PA and NJ.

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

8. DVRPC's SFY 2005/FFY 2006 Aviation Capital Improvement Program (ACIP)

Roger Moog and Reiner Pelzer presented members with the regional priority ranking of all first year projects from each airport's 12 year plan in the SFY 2005/FFY 2006 Aviation Capital Improvement Program (ACIP) for Pennsylvania. This list would be used by the PENNDOT's Bureau of Aviation (BOA) in their statewide project deliberations. The ACIP ranking system was established regardless of project costs and prioritized according to DVRPC system needs, which examined each project's attention to: preservation, noise and safety, project sponsor's ability to provide a local funding match, FAA rank, funding history, follow up projects, aircraft operation levels, status of planning documents and airport sponsor preparedness. The action requested was to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve the ACIP SFY 2005/FFY 2006 Regional Airport Capital Improvement projects ranking.

Motion: by Lee Whitmore, seconded by Curt Noe, to recommend the Board approve the ACIP SFY 2005/FFY 2006 Regional Airport Capital Improvement projects ranking.

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

9. Adoption of Destination 2030: A Vision For the Future

Mike Boyer said that the "Destination 2030: A Vision For the Future" report focused on eight critical issue areas that would impact the future development and form of the region. They were Growth Management, Urban Revitalization, Economic Development, the Environment, Equity & Opportunity, Transportation Facilities, Transportation Operations and Transportation Finance. The action requested was to recommend that the Board endorse the visions and goals developed within this report as the foundation for the 2030 Long Range Plan document currently under development.

Motion: by Lee Whitmore, seconded by Carol Thomas, to recommend the Board endorse the "Destination 2030: A Vision For the Future" report as the basis for the goals and policies for the 2030 Long Range Plan currently under development.

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

PRESENTATION ITEMS

10. Transit Revitalization Investment District Act (Act 238 of 2004)

Rich Bickel presented the Transit Revitalization Investment District Act (TRID) to the PCC/RTC. TRID is intended to promote Transit Orientated Design (TOD) planning and community economic development throughout Pennsylvania via flexible, multi-municipal and county cooperation as well as public/private partnerships. Community involvement in TRID planning and implementation is essential as are incentives for private sector investments in TOD's and maximum use of existing laws that support TRID purposes.

INFORMATION ITEMS

11. 2006 Pennsylvania Transit Support Program Special Studies (TSP)

Sarah Oaks reported that Bucks County had requested the Transit Support Program Special Studies (TSP) be reopened to include the Newtown Bus Rapid Transit study. As the TSP was already oversubscribed, a subcommittee of the PCC/RTC was convened at 9.30 on January 4 and members agreed that the Smart Car Feasability Study should be removed from the TSP and replaced with the Newtown Bus Rapid Transit Study.

12. One Minute Reports

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

13. Old Business and New Business

There was no old or new business discussed.

14. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting of the PCC/RTC is February 8 , 2005.

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
 Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce
 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)
 (not represented)
 Tom Shaffer
 Linda Hayes
 Ernest Cohen
 Lorraine Brill
 Pete Scirrotto
 Matthew Lawson
 Leo Bagley
 Brian Cuccia
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 Jerry Lutin
 (not represented)
 Robert Hannigan
 Linda Guarini
 Deborah Shaaf
 Michelle Webb
 Kenneth Lomax
 Catherine Popp-McDonough

Representative

Kelvin MacKavanagh
 (not represented)
 Spencer Stevens
 Keith Lynch
 Thomas Caramanico
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 William Ragozine
 (not represented)
 Peter Quinn
 Walt Green
 David Raffaele
 Robert Ihlein
 Bill Krebs
 (not represented)

ATTENDANCE (cont'd)

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

Other Member Representatives and Guests

Laurie Actman - Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce
Michael Angelastro - Remington and Venrick Engineers
Jim Berzok - NJDOT
Richard Burnfield - SEPTA
Eric Cheung - Clean Air Council/GPCCP
Claudia Gordon - City of Philadelphia
Patricia Horrocks - Delaware Valley Citizens Transportation Committee
Andrea Jordan - City of Philadelphia
James McQuilkin - DRPA
Josh Miller - Evening Bulletin
Roger Sager - DRJTBL
Mark Stout - NJDOT
Kathleen Zubrzycki - SEPTA

DVRPC Staff

Karin Cilurso
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