

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

PLANNING COORDINATING COMMITTEE/ REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

March 8, 2005 Meeting Highlights

DVRPC Conference Room, Philadelphia, PA

1. Call to Order - Chairman's Comments

Michelle Webb, the PCC/RTC Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. She noted that the May 10 PCC/RTC meeting will be held at Philadelphia's City Hall.

2. Transportation Director's Report

Don Shanis reported that the DVRPC Board passed all actions recommended at the February PCC/RTC meeting. The Board meeting was held offsite at the Chemical Heritage Foundation, and featured a long range plan workshop. Between March 2-4, DVRPC hosted a National Transit Institute Metropolitan Transportation Planning Workshop.

He also informed members of the following upcoming meetings/important dates:

- March 9: Special DVRPC Board meeting to discuss Governor Rendell's plans to flex funds to SEPTA.
- March 9-10: Transportation Solutions Conference.
- March 28-29: PENNDOT Public Involvement Meeting on the PA Mobility Plan.

3. Report on Regional Citizens Committee Activities

Warren Strumpfer reported that the RCC was concerned about several projects and needed some clarification on certain issues.

- **Perry Street Reconstruction Project.** The RCC wanted to see drawings or written explanation on the measures that would be implemented to make the street safer for pedestrians and motorists.
- **Route 38 Pedestrian Bridge Project.** The RCC wanted further clarification on "Context Sensitive Design" and the type and extent of public involvement in the project.
- **Cramer Hill Development Project.** The RCC voted to recommend that the Board not approve this project. It was felt

- that social issues related to the displacement of low income housing individuals had not been equitably addressed.
- **PENNVEST Requests in Bucks and Montgomery Counties.** The RCC was concerned with groundwater contamination. They felt the project had not properly addressed the issue.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Highlights of the Meeting of February 8, 2005

The highlights from the February 8 meeting of the PCC/RTC were presented for adoption.

Motion: by Curt Noe, seconded by Brian Cuccia, 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 ten TIP amendments which were submitted for consideration.

- a. TIP Action NJ05-11a: US 130 and Neck Road Intersection,(New Proposed Project), Burlington County
Burlington County requested that DVRPC amend the FY2005-2007 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new project to the Study and Development Program, the US 130 and Neck Road Intersection.\$350,000 would be drawn from the Local Scoping Line item (DB #X80B) which is set up to provide federal funds directly to member agencies for advancing projects through stages in the scoping process including environmental and engineering phases.
- b. TIP Action NJ05- 11b: Egg Harbor Road CR 630, from Hurffville-Grenloch to Hurffville-Cross Keys, (New Proposed Project) Gloucester County
Gloucester County requested that DVRPC amend the FY2005-2007 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new project to the Study and Development Program, the Egg Harbor Road, Hurffville-Grenloch Road to Hurffville-Cross Keys Road project. \$350,000 would be drawn from the Local Scoping Line item (DB #X80B).

Motion: by Warren Strumpfer, seconded by Carol Thomas, to approve TIP Actions; NJ05-11a and NJ05-11b to amend the FY

2005-2007 TIP for New Jersey by adding two new projects, US 130 and Neck Road Intersection project and the Egg Harbor Road project, to the Study and Development Program,

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

c. TIP Action PA05-15a: Market Street Bridge Pedestrian Enhancement (New Proposed Project) (MPMS #72793), Philadelphia

The City of Philadelphia on behalf of the Schuylkill River Development Corporation (SRDC) requested that DVRPC amend the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project into the TIP with \$250,000 specially earmarked DEMO funds for the Market Street Bridge Pedestrian Enhancement project (MPMS #72793).

d. TIP Action PA05-15b: N. Delaware River East Coast Greenway (formerly Kensington and Tacony Trail), (MPMS #61712) Philadelphia

The City of Philadelphia on behalf of the PA Environmental Council has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by programming \$750,000 specially earmarked DEMO funds for the North Delaware Riverfront Greenway project (MPMS #61712 formerly known as the Kensington and Tacony Trail) and changing the name of the project.

*Motion: by Kenneth Lomax, seconded by Anthony Santaniello, to approve TIP Actions; PA05-15a and PA05-15b to amend the FY 2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding the Market Street Bridge Pedestrian Enhancement project and by changing the name of the Kensington and Tacony Trail project to the **North Delaware Riverfront Greenway project** and programming \$750,000 specially earmarked Section 115 DEMO funds for design and construction.*

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

e. TIP Action PA05-16: South Street Bridge Detour, New Proposed Project, (MPMS #72847), Philadelphia

The City of Philadelphia requested that DVRPC amend the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project, the South Street Advanced Contract Detour Signal Project (MPMS #72847), into the TIP with \$400,000 (\$320,000 STP funds/\$80,000 Local match) for an FY05 preliminary engineering phase.

f. TIP Action PA05-17: Valley Green Road Bridge, New Proposed Project, (MPMS #72355), Montgomery County

Montgomery County requested that DVRPC amend the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project, the Valley Green Road Bridge replacement Project (MPMS #72355), into the TIP with \$500,000 (\$400,000 federal bridge funds/\$75,000 State/\$25,000 Local match) for an FY05 preliminary engineering phase.

Motion: by Leo Bagley, seconded by Curt Noe, to approve TIP Actions PA05-16 and PA 05-17 to amend the FY 2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding the South Street Advanced Contract Detour Signal Project (MPMS #72847) and the Valley Green Road Bridge project (MPMS #72355).

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

- g. TIP Action PA05-18a: Traffic Control Center and ITS Systems Maintenance, New Proposed Project, (MPMS#72837), Montgomery County
PENNDOT requested that DVRPC amend the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project, the Traffic Control Center and ITS Systems Maintenance Project (MPMS #72837), into the TIP with \$500,000 (\$400,000 CMAQ funds/\$100,000 State match) for an FY05 preliminary engineering phase.
- h. TIP Action PA05-18b: Merion Avenue Bridge (MPMS #16180), Montgomery County
PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a project back into the TIP, the Merion Avenue Bridge project (MPMS #16180), with \$250,000 (200,000 State/\$50,000 Local match) for final design and \$2.2 million (\$1.760 million federal Bridge/\$330,000 State/\$110,000 Local) for utilities in FY05, with construction programmed in later fiscal years.

Motion: by Robert Hannigan, seconded by Lee Whitmore, to approve TIP Actions PA05- 18a and PA 05-18b to amend the FY 2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project, the Traffic Control Center and ITS Systems Maintenance Project (MPMS #72837) and by adding the Merion Avenue Bridge project (MPMS #16180) back into the TIP.

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

- i. TIP Action PA05-18c: Church Road Bridge over R5, (MPMS#16155), Montgomery County
PENNDOT requested that DVRPC amend the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a project back into the TIP, the Church Road Bridge project (MPMS #16155), with \$375,000 (\$300,000 State/\$75,000 Local match) for final design and \$2.2 million (\$1.760 million federal Bridge/\$330,000 State/\$110,000 Local) for utilities in FY05, with construction programmed in later fiscal years.

- j. TIP Action PA05-18d: PA 309 Cheltenham to Church, (MPMS#16479), Montgomery County
PENNDOT requested that DVRPC modify the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing the FY05 construction phase of the Route 309 Reconstruction Project, Section 102 between Cheltenham Ave. and Church Road by \$12.513 million (\$10.010 million federal highway funds/\$2.503 million state match) due to a higher than expected construction bid.

Motion: by Robert Hannigan, seconded by Leo Bagley, to approve TIP Actions PA05- 18c and PA 05-18d to amend the FY 2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by reintroducing a project, the Church Road Bridge project (MPMS #16155) and by modifying the FY 2005 TIP for Pennsylvania to increase the FY05 construction phase of the Route 309 Reconstruction Project (MPMS#16479).

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

6. Approval of “Flex” Federal Highway Funds to Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA)

Charles Dougherty informed the committee that approximately \$49 million was still needed to eliminate the SEPTA budget shortfall for FY 2005 only. This followed last month’s “Flex” of \$9.8 million of federal highway funds to SEPTA, with an additional \$3.2 million provided by state Transportation Assistance Program (TAP) Bond Funds for a total aid package of \$13 million.

He said PENNDOT had identified an additional \$942 million in federal and state highway and bridge funds for FY 2005 and FY 2006 to be used on a statewide basis. Of this amount, DVRPC would receive new, additional funds of \$112.6 million in FY 2005. PENNDOT requested that DVRPC “flex” \$42.7 million of these additional funds to SEPTA to address their immediate FY 2005 shortfall (with an additional \$6.5 million to be used by SEPTA from the Paoli Yard Project settlement). The balance of almost \$70 million would be available to DVRPC for other highway and bridge projects in FY 2005.

Motion: by Robert Hannigan, seconded by Cathy Popp-McDonough, to recommend that the Board approve PENNDOT's request to amend the FY 2005 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY2005-2008) by flexing \$42.7 million in additional federal highway funds to the FTA for use by SEPTA, adding these funds to "FHWA Flex for preventative Maintenance" (MPMS #69529). Furthermore, the RTC recommends that the Board warn SEPTA and its unions that a strike at this time would jeopardize any hope of a statewide funding solution for transit.

Note: DVRPC will create an administrative TIP project to hold the additional highway funds (\$\$69.9 million in FY05 and \$17.4 million in FY06) for use on other projects, to be determined.

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

7. FY 2006 Mobility Alternatives Program Work Programs

Sarah Oaks informed the committee members that the Mobility Alternatives Program was started in 1995 as a successor to the Employer Trip Reduction Program. It functions as an education and outreach program whereby contractors who are part of the program work with employers to encourage the use of commute alternatives to the single occupant automobile. There are currently seven contractors involved: the Bucks County, Chester County, Delaware County, Greater Valley Forge, and Partnership Transportation Management Associations, along with SEPTA and the City of Philadelphia Office of Strategic Planning, as well as DVRPC. Although the contract is directly with PENNDOT, DVRPC provides administrative oversight, as well as certain overall program elements such as operating the Share-A-Ride ridematching program and developing collateral marketing communications materials. For FY 2006, The City of Philadelphia plans to subcontract their work to the Clean Air Council. PENNDOT requested that the DVRPC Board approve the work programs.

Motion: by Kenneth Lomax, seconded by Lorainne Brill, to recommend Board approval of the FY 2006 Mobility Alternatives Program grant requests for the Bucks County TMA, The TMA of Chester County, the Delaware County TMA, the Greater Valley Forge TMA, the Partnership TMA, SEPTA, the City of Philadelphia, and DVRPC 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.

8. Approval of Pennsylvania Home Town Streets/Safe Routes to School (HTS/SRS) Projects (2004-2005) for inclusion in the DVRPC Transportation Improvement Program

Jacob Malikkal presented an action item regarding the Pennsylvania Home Town Streets/Safe Routes to School Projects for 2004-2005. A project set

prepared by the RTC Pennsylvania Subcommittee and approved by the DVRPC Board in October, 2004 was submitted to the Pennsylvania State Transportation Commission (STC). Committee action was now sought regarding the revised list recommended by the STC.

The actions requested were to recommend that the DVRPC Board amend the FY05 TIP by programming funding for the Hometown Streets and Safe Routes to School programs, with individual projects broken out and assigned MPMS #'s at the appropriate time.

Motion: by Robert Hannigan, seconded by Brian Cuccia, to recommend the Board approve TIP Action PA05- 20 to amend the FY05 TIP for funding the Hometown Streets and Safe Routes to School programs.

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

9. Destination 2030 Long Range Plan Transportation Projects

Don Shanis initiated the explanation of the process for developing a fiscally-constrained set of transportation projects for the DVRPC 2030 Long Range Plan. Ultimately, a conformity determination of the plan will be performed, based on the fiscally-constrained project set.

Mike Boyer discussed the work and meeting conducted with the PA and NJ RTC Subcommittees to arrive at the final draft set of projects. Important factors in arriving at the final project set were: an emphasis on the maintenance of existing facilities, fiscal constraint, and a stricter definition of regional projects. The final draft set consists of 104 projects. Projects were primarily drawn from the following sources: the 2025 Long Range Plan, technical studies, and member governments and operating agencies. The 2030 plan will also contain special modules for: freight, operations, bicycle/pedestrian, and aviation.

With respect to proposed projects that would add new capacity to the region's public transportation system, Anthony Santaniello stated that the City of Philadelphia desired to replace the Northeast Rapid Transit project with the Broad Street Subway extension to the Navy Yard. Lorraine Brill of the Delaware Valley Citizens Transportation Committee objected and observed that there was insufficient documentation regarding the benefits of this project.

Motion: by Robert Hannigan, seconded by Catherine Popp-McDonough, to recommend the Board adopt the fiscally-constrained major regional project lists for the New Jersey and Pennsylvania sub-regions as amended with the Broad Street Subway Extension in lieu of the Northeast Rapid Transit Line project.

Motion passed. 16 votes were cast in favor of the motion. One opposed and one abstention.

10. Expansion of the RTC Membership to Include a Representative of the Delaware Valley's Academic Community

The RTC membership has recently been expanded to reflect the broad-based transportation focus of the committee. Ted Dahlburg presented guidelines, which had been developed to incorporate a representative of the Delaware Valley's academic community into the committee. The essence of the proposal is for DVRPC staff to research the qualifications and interest levels of candidates, to appoint a local faculty member to a one-year term with RTC concurrence, and to involve that individual and his/her students in a full range of appropriate RTC activities.

Motion: by Curt Noe, seconded by Lee Whitmore, to recommend that the DVRPC staff prepare and distribute a letter of inquiry to appropriate local institutions of higher learning to gauge the level of interest of local academicians to participate in the activities of the DVRPC.

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

INFORMATION ITEMS

11. Access Management Along Highways in Pennsylvania

Kelly Sabo of the DVRPC Transportation Planning Division provided highlights of PennDOT's program to develop model access management ordinances for local municipalities. DVRPC has been supporting this effort by conducting case studies along two local highway corridors: PA 309 (County Line Road) and US 1 (City Avenue). Two municipal training sessions on access management will be offered in the DVRPC region: one on May 12 and another on May 13. Workshop attendance is free, but is available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

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 April 5, 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

Representative

(not represented)
 Carol Thomas
 Curt Noe
 Lee Whitmore
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 Justin Dula
 Linda Hayes
 Warren Strumpfer
 Lorraine Brill
 Jessica Savidge
 Matt Lawson
 Leo Bagley
 Brian Cuccia
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 Jerry Lutin
 (not represented)
 Robert Hannigan
 Linda Guarini
 Anthony Santaniello
 Michelle Webb
 Kenneth Lomax
 Catherine Popp-McDonough

Non-Voting Members

Delaware Valley Goods Movement Task Force
 Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce
 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
 Tom Caramanico
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 Peter Quinn
 Walt Green
 David Raffaele
 Robert Ihlein
 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
Pierce Ravacon - Baker Engineering
Rich Burnfield - SEPTA
Kathleen Zubrzycki - SEPTA
Chris Patton - SEPTA
John Pawson - DVRPC RCC
Hans Vannaeszsen - DVRPC RCC
Robert H. Machler - DVRPC RCC
Andrea Jordan- City of Philadelphia Streets Dept.
Claudia Gordon - City of Philadelphia
John Thomas Cooper - Tredyfferin Township Planning Commission
Randy Waltermeyer - Chester C.P.C
Martin A. Hofler - Northern Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
Ernest Cohen - SSAP
Roger Sager - DRJTBC
Nancy Goldberg - CCD/CPTMA
John Boyle- RCC
Laurie Actman - Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce

DVRPC Staff

Charles Dougherty
Donald Shanis
John Ward
Jacob Malikkal
Emi Faloughi
Ryan Gallagher
Alex Karman
Ted Dahlburg
Elizabeth Schoonmaker
Sarah Oaks