

# DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

## PLANNING COORDINATING COMMITTEE/

## REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

### September 6, 2005 Meeting Highlights

### DVRPC Conference Room, Philadelphia, PA

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

Brian Cuccia, PCC/RTC Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

#### 2. Transportation Director's Report

Don Shanis (DVRPC) informed the members of the retirement of Andy Warren, District Executive of PennDOT District 6. The acting District Executive is Rina Cutler, Deputy Secretary of Administration. Dr. Shanis also informed the members of the retirement of Bill Greene, Assistant Executive Director for Administration at the DVRPC. Additionally, Dr. Shanis stated that Emi Faloughi, Transportation Planner has resigned her position at the DVRPC.

Dr. Shanis announced to the members that there are various positions currently available at the DVRPC, and asked members to encourage any qualified professionals to apply.

Dr. Shanis informed the members of the 2005 Land-Use and Freight Summit, taking place on September 7-9, 2005 at the Rittenhouse Hotel, Philadelphia, PA. Attendance to the summit is by invitation only.

Lastly, Dr. Shanis announced to the members that the DVRPC's Board Retreat will be held on December 2, 2005 in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

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

Warren Strumpfer (RCC) addressed the members by saying that the RCC appreciates the efforts made by the DVRPC's staff for arranging a meeting to discuss the Bike/Ped issues raised by the RCC. Mr. Strumpfer also stated that the RCC appreciates the quick response to the RCC's comments on the DVRPC's 2030 Plan.

Mr. Strumpfer addressed the members by asking whether the DOTs of Pennsylvania or New Jersey are considering the design and implementation of roundabouts into roadway projects, before traffic signals are explored. Charles Dougherty (DVRPC) stated that roundabouts are being considered but because it is a new approach to traffic design, successful implementation can take a great deal of time.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **4. Highlights of the Meeting of July 12, 2005**

The highlights from the July 12 meeting of the PCC/RTC were presented for adoption.

*Motion: by Carol Thomas, seconded by Matthew Lawson to adopt the highlights for the July 12 PCC/RTC meeting.*

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

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

Elizabeth Schoonmaker presented 5 TIP amendments which were submitted for consideration.

#### **a. TIP Action PA05-40: Bus Stop Enhancement Project (New Proposed Project, MPMS #71644), Philadelphia**

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project, the Bus Stop Enhancement Project (MPMS#71644) sponsored by the Philadelphia Commercial Development Corporation (PCDC). This project would be programmed with \$750,000 of specially earmarked Section 115 DEMO funds for preliminary engineering. The overall goal of the project is to improve the surrounding businesses and community during and after the SEPTA Market Street Elevated Re-construction Project by enhancing bus stop facilities and the local environment. The project will improve bus stops that intersect with and/or feed SEPTA Market Street Elevated "EI" stations via the development and design of bus shelters with improved lighting, seating, security, and possible wiring for internet access.

*Motion: by Kenneth Lomax, seconded by Michelle Webb to approve TIP Action PA05-40, to amend the FY 2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by*

*adding the Bus Stop Enhancement project using \$750,000 of specially earmarked Section 115 DEMO funds for preliminary engineering.*

Motion passed. 18 votes were cast in favor of the motion, none opposed, and 1 abstention (Lorraine Brill, DVCTC).

**b. TIP Action PA05-41a: US 202 5 Points Intersection (MPMS #63493), Montgomery County**

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by advancing a project currently programmed for construction in "Later Fiscal Years" into the FY05 and FY06 years of the TIP. The 5 Points Intersection (Section 71A) (MPMS #63493) has been on hold while a task force re-evaluates US Route 202 Section 700 but is now ready to advance to final design in FY05 (\$900,000 State), and right of way (\$800,000 Federal/\$200,000 State), utility (\$400,000 Federal/\$100,000 State), and construction (\$2.4 million federal/\$600,000 state) in FY06. The project includes widening the intersection approaches and intersection improvements of three major roads by adding additional through lanes on PA 309 and turn lanes on PA 463.

**c. TIP Action PA05-41b: Norristown Signal System (MPMS #16701), Montgomery County**

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a project onto the TIP, the Norristown Signal System (MPMS #16701). The project would be programmed for construction (\$1.8 million CMAQ) in FY06. Selected as part of the DVRPC CMAQ Competitive Program in 1999, this project will provide funds to coordinate and interconnect 27 traffic signals on Main, Airy, Marshall, Swede, and Dekalb streets with various local streets in the Borough of Norristown. Signals will be replaced and traffic-responsive closed loop detectors will be installed in the roadway. PENNDOT District 6 and the Township will monitor the system which can accommodate remote access for emergency response. Pedestrian push buttons and line striping will be included.

*Motion: by Lee Whitmore, seconded by Matthew Lawson to approve TIP Action PA05-41a, and PA05-41b, to amend the FY 2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by advancing the 5 Points Intersection (Section 71A) project (MPMS #63493); and by adding the Norristown Signal System project (MPMS #16701).*

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

**d. TIP Action PA05-42 : Transportation Enhancements (TE) (MPMS #64984) Various Counties**

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing construction costs for 2 projects selected through the TE Competitive Program in order for them to advance to construction in September. PENNDOT proposes to fund the cost increases by drawing unobligated FY05 funds from the DVRPC TE Line item. No other projects will be delayed by this action, as there are no plans to obligate these funds this fiscal year. Projects requiring cost increases:

MPMS #50517 - Falls Twp Community Connector(Trail), Bucks County-\$501,000  
MPMS #65904 - Doylestown Broad Street Improvements, Bucks County-\$524,000

The Falls Township Community Connector appears on the current TIP with an \$850,000 construction phase in FY05, using a 20% Toll Credit Match, and would require \$501,000 increase. The Doylestown Broad Street Connector is currently programmed for \$601,000 for construction in FY05 and would require a \$524,000 cost increase. Both projects have completed final design phases, with design performed and paid for locally. Both projects have low bids from different contractors that came in up to 60% higher than the project budget. From past experience it has been observed that there isn't substantial savings by rebidding projects after reducing scopes. In fact it sometimes costs more when a project is rebid.

PENNDOT has proposed to pay for the cost increases by drawing down unobligated funds from the TE Line item (MPMS #64984), currently containing \$3.806 million federal TE funds. FY05 and FY06 funds are all "claimed" by projects that were recently selected through the TE Competitive Program, but the projects do not actually draw down the funds until the appropriate time when they are ready to advance to construction. If all TE projects laid claim to funds during the same fiscal year, there would not be enough to fund cost increases, but given the "rolling" nature of how projects actually reach the construction phase and obligate funding, and given the possible increased level of TE funds to the DVRPC region from the new SAFETEA LU federal transportation bill, it may be possible to maintain the funding level for the upcoming round of the TE Competitive Program, and still fund cost increases. The worst case scenario is that the cost increases would impact the size of the "pot" for the upcoming round of TE projects. The TE Subcommittee will address the larger policy issue of how to fund cost increases in depth at the next PA TE Subcommittee meeting, but given the end of fiscal year FY05 and two projects that are ready to begin construction now, the construction increases for these two projects are being requested at this time.

*Motion: by Matthew Lawson, seconded by Catherine Popp-McDonough to modify the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing construction costs for 2 projects selected through the TE Competitive Program in order for them to advance to construction in September.*

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

e. **TIP Action PA05-43: FTA Section 5310 Program Capital Assistance (MPMS #62150), PENNDOT and Various Counties**

PENNDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by programming funds for the Federal Transit Administration's Section 5310 Program (formerly Section 16(b)(2)), which provides capital assistance to private nonprofit corporations that provide transportation services for senior citizens and people with disabilities. Every year PENNDOT coordinates an application process for this program and this year has selected 9 agencies in the DVRPC region to program a total of \$1,174,000 in FY05 for the purchase of 21 vehicles for the following agencies:

Agency	County	Federal Share	Local Share	Total Cost
Bucks County Transport, Inc.	Bucks	\$194,560	\$48,640	\$243,200
St. Luke's Quakertown Hospital	Bucks	\$37,680	\$9,420	\$47,100
Chandler Hall Health Services.	Bucks	\$74,560	\$18,640	\$93,200
Cerebral Palsy Assoc. of Chester County, Inc.	Chester	\$195,520	\$48,880	\$244,400
Community Transit of Delaware County, Inc.	Delaware	\$134,640	\$33,660	\$168,300
Intercommunity Action, Inc.	Delaware	\$34,800	\$8,300	\$43,100
Suburban Transit Network, Inc.	Montgomery	\$172,480	\$43,120	\$215,600
Programs Employing People (PEP)	Philadelphia	\$40,000	\$10,000	\$50,000
University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing/ d.b.a. LIFE	Philadelphia	\$55,280	\$13,820	\$69,100
<b>Total</b>		\$939,200	\$234,800	\$1,174,000

*Motion: by Lorraine Brill, seconded by Jessica Savidge to amend the FY2005-2008 TIP for Pennsylvania by programming funds for the Federal Transit Administration's Section 5310 Program (formerly Section 16(b)(2)), which provides capital assistance to private nonprofit corporations that provide transportation services for senior citizens and people with disabilities.*

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

6. **Fiscal Year 2006 Planning Work Program Development Amendments**

To respond to the needs of member governments and agencies, work program changes and additions are brought to the PCC/RTC to permit the timely undertaking of technical activity.

a. **DVRPC FY2006 Work Program Amendment: NJDOT Airports; Two Master Plan Studies**

Roger Moog (DVRPC) presented details for a DVRPC FY2006 Work Program Amendment.

*Motion: by Carol Thomas, seconded by Warren Strumpfer to recommend to the Board for approval, the DVRPC FY2006 Work Program Amendment: NJDOT Airports; Two Master Plans.*

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**7. DVRPC FY 2007 Planning Work Program Development**

John Griffies (DVRPC) and Sarah Oaks (DVRPC) discussed with the RTC members the development schedule and request for projects for the FY 2007 Work Program.

**8. “Complete Streets” and the State Departments of Transportations (DOTs)**

Mr. David Bachman, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager, PENNDOT, and Ms. Sheree Davis, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Coordinator, NJDOT, presented progress in their respective departments toward routine consideration of bicyclist and pedestrian needs in highway project scoping and design.

**9. Draft Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Master Plan**

Stanley Platt (DVRPC) discussed the Draft ITS Master Plan. The Plan represents a long-term vision of ITS in the Delaware Valley. The purpose of the Plan is to present a comprehensive vision of ITS services to be implemented and proposes a list of projects which will bridge the programs of individual agencies and create more cohesive operations.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

Charles Dougherty (DVRPC) presented information about items 10 -13. Mr. Dougherty informed the members about the status of the FY 2007 TIP Development; key points in the new federal transportation act: SAFETEA-LU; workshops for Transportation Enhancements, Home Town Streets, and Safe Routes to School Program; and the success of the PA State Transportation Commission (STC) Public Hearing, which was held at the DVRPC's offices.

Tralonne Shorter, South Jersey Director for the office of Senator Frank Lautenberg addressed the members on behalf of the senator. Ms. Shorter informed the members that Senator Lautenberg is pleased with the recently passed Federal Transportation Act, and that the senator is encouraged by funds for transportation projects for the State of

New Jersey. Ms. Shorter can be reached at: [tralonne\\_shorter@lautenberg.senate.gov](mailto:tralonne_shorter@lautenberg.senate.gov)

**10. Status Report on FY 2007 TIP Development**

**11. New Federal Transportation Act: SAFETEA-LU**

**12. Workshops for Transportation Enhancements, Home Town Streets, and Safe Routes to School Program**

**13. PA State Transportation Commission (STC) Public Hearing at DVRPC**

**14. One Minute Reports**

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

**15. Old Business and New Business**

**16. Meeting Adjournment**

The next scheduled meeting of the PCC/RTC is October 11, 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**

David Johnson  
 Carol Thomas  
 (not represented)  
 Lee Whitmore  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)  
 Judy Adams  
 Justin Dula  
 Linda Hayes  
 Warren Strumpfer  
 Lorraine Brill  
 Jessica Savidge  
 Matt Lawson  
 (not represented)  
 Brian Cuccia  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)  
 Jerry Lutin  
 (not represented)  
 Hugh McGowan  
 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 MacKavanaugh  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)  
 (not represented)  
 Peter Quinn  
 (not represented)  
 David Raffaele  
 (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**

Andrea Jordan - City of Philadelphia Streets Dept.  
Tim Kelly - Clean Air Council  
Eric Larkin - Utility & Transportation Contractors Assoc. of NJ  
Sue Herman - RRTS  
Roger Sager - DRJTBL  
Sheree Davis - NJDOT - Bike/Ped Office  
Dave Bachman - PennDOT - Highway Safety & Traffic Engineering  
Matt Bochanski - PennDOT - D-6 Engineering  
Deborah Shaaf - Phila. City Planning Commission  
Tralonne Shorter - US Senator Frank Lautenberg  
Les Varga -SJTPO  
Ernest B. Cohen - SSAP  
Kathleen Zubrzycki - SEPTA  
Julie Gandy - Burlington County  
Randy Waltermeyer - Chester County Planning Comm.  
Hans Van Naerssen - Bicycle Coalition

**DVRPC Staff**

Donald Shanis  
Charles Dougherty  
John Ward  
Ted Dahlburg  
Matthew West  
Elizabeth Schoonmaker  
Sean Lawrence  
Kenneth Thompson  
Jean McKinney  
Kevin Murphy  
John Madera