

**DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**PLANNING COORDINATING COMMITTEE/**  
**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**  
**November 14, 2006 Meeting Highlights**  
**DVRPC Conference Room, Philadelphia, PA**

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

Catherine Popp-McDonough welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Ms. Popp-McDonough turned the meeting over to Don Shanis (DVRPC) to review the recently released report from the Transportation Funding and Reform Commission.

**2. Deputy Executive Director's Report**

Dr. Shanis presented a brief overview of the Transportation Funding and Reform Commission report, which was released on Monday November 13, 2006. In short, this report recommended that Pennsylvania increase their gas tax, oil franchising tax, and licensing fees to help support the costs of maintaining, improving, and expanding the state-wide network of highways. The report also suggested that the realty transfer tax be increased to provide funding for transit programs and projects. Many other suggestions for additional sources of revenue and methods to streamline projects are included in the final report. The entire report, as well as an executive summary, is available online at [www.dot.state.pa.us/tfrc](http://www.dot.state.pa.us/tfrc).

Dr. Shanis also noted that DVRPC staff has consolidated many of the FY08 work program projects into fewer projects with several related tasks combined into broader topic areas.

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

John Boyle provided information on the most recent RCC meeting. The RCC approved all of the TIP amendments recommended by the RTC, except TIP Action PA 07-15 regarding the I-76 Schuylkill Expressway ITS. The RCC does not support this TIP Action, as the acceptance of this adjustment would result in the elimination of the Competitive CMAQ program.

**ACTION ITEMS****4. Highlights of the Meeting of October 10, 2006**

The highlights from the October 10, 2006 meeting of the PCC/RTC were presented for adoption.

*Motion: by Brian Cuccia, seconded by Jerry Lutin to adopt the highlights for the October 5, 2006 PCC/RTC meeting.*

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

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

Elizabeth Schoonmaker presented one TIP amendment for consideration.

**a. TIP Action NJ07-02: Motor Vehicle Crash Records Processing (New Jersey Statewide Line Item, DB #X233)**

NJDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for New Jersey by federalizing a project in the TIP, the Statewide Line Item for Motor Vehicle Crash Records Processing, DB #X233. This project provides funds for NJDOT's statewide crash record processing effort including upgrading equipment and data entry, scanning, and processing. The data processing component has previously been handled in the Philippines and was therefore not eligible for federal funds. The effort will now be handled in the USA, and is eligible for federal funds. The program will go from a \$3 million State funded project in FY07, to a \$4 million federally funded project. An additional \$1 million is needed for the higher anticipated costs of bringing the work back to the US.

*Motion: by Curt Noe, seconded by Jessica Lucas to amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for New Jersey by federalizing a project in the TIP, the Statewide Line Item for Motor Vehicle Crash Records Processing, DB #X233 by programming \$4 million EB in FY07, and shifting the \$3 million in FY07 state funds to DB #X72A.*

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

**6. Fiscal Year 2007 Planning Work Program 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. **US 1 Widening and Reconstruction Traffic Study**

Dr. Shanis explained that PennDOT is in the process of developing a reconstruction / widening study for the six-mile, four-lane section of US 1 between the Philadelphia County line and the US 1 / I-95 interchange. In addition to the reconstruction and selective widening of the US 1 Expressway mainline, the build alternatives may include improvements to the Street Road, PA Turnpike, and Rockhill Road interchanges and at other locations to be determined.

The study will provide 2012 and 2032 traffic forecasts to be used to complete the required planning studies and provide design volumes for the proposed reconstruction project. This project will be initiated in FY 2007 and completed in FY 2008.

*Motion: by David Johnson, seconded by Lee Whitmore to amend the FY2007 work program to include \$125,000 dedicated to the US 1 Widening and Reconstruction Traffic Study.*

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

b. **Transit Support Program (New Jersey)**

Sarah Oaks (DVRPC) presented an FY 07 Planning Work Program Amendment for the New Jersey Transit Support Program. At the conclusion of the FY 2007 PWP development process, \$53,667 was left unallocated under the Special Study funding category. Two requests came in to utilize these funds: one from Burlington County for \$23,667 for an update of their Street and Transit Map, and the other was for \$30,000 from New Jersey Transit to conduct a survey and focus group effort in advance of the Princeton Route 1 Bus Rapid Transit Study which will be undertaken in FY 08.

*Motion: by Jerry Lutin, seconded by Brian Cuccia to amend the FY 07 work program for New Jersey to include these two special studies in the transit support program.*

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

7. **FY08 Supportive Regional Highway Planning Program and Transit Support Program Special Studies**

Sarah Oaks presented the Special Studies submitted for consideration for the FY 2008 Planning Work Program Transit Support Programs in Pennsylvania and New Jersey and also for the Supportive Regional Highway Planning Program in New

Jersey. The RTC was asked to approve the candidate projects with the understanding that changes, if necessary, can be made to the various work programs while the FY 2008 Planning Work Program is in Draft format.

*Motion: by Jessica Lucas, seconded by Lee Whitmore to approve the candidate projects with the understanding that changes, if necessary, can be made to the various work programs while the FY 2008 Planning Work Program is in Draft format.*

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

## **8. FY 2007 (TCDI) Program**

Karen Cilurso (DVRPC) presented proposed changes to FY 2007 TCDI program. The recommended changes are as follows:

- solicitation every two years: \$1 million for NJ and \$2 million for PA
- increase NJ administration costs to \$75,000 annually
- allow nonprofits/CDCs within the City of Philadelphia to apply for funds
- increase multi municipal project limit to \$125,000
- add census tracts to encourage TOD - 208 eligible municipalities
- allow 36 months for project completion, with no extensions

The next round of grants is proposed to begin in January 2007.

RTC members commented on a need for the county planning partners to be more informed of the TCDI projects within their jurisdiction. RTC members also requested a status report on the 99 TCDI projects approved thus far in the program. Ms. Cilurso agreed that this update would be useful to the RTC, and arranged to have this status update prepared for the next RTC meeting.

*Motion: by Brian Cuccia, seconded by Lee Whitmore to recommend that the Board reauthorize the FY 2007 TCDI program guide to reflect the recommended changes. Also, to modify the FY07 TIP for PA and NJ as necessary to provide federal funds totaling \$1 million for NJ project funds, \$75,000 annually for NJ administrative costs, and \$2 million for PA project funds this fiscal year to accommodate the new 2 year cycle.*

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

**9. Destination 2030 Long Range Plan Amendment**

The public comment period for a long range plan amendment to add new ramps to provide all movements at the Norristown Road interchange of PA 309 will close on November 30, 2006. Mike Boyer (DVRPC) presented staff recommendations, pending the outcome of the public comment period, for Board adoption.

*Motion: by Jim Mosca, seconded by Matthew Edmonds to adopt the long range plan amendments recommended by staff.*

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

**10. Adoption of Conformity Determination of the DVRPC FY 2007 TIP and the Destination 2030 Long Range Plan**

The public comment period for the draft conformity finding will end on November 30, 2006. Jienki Synn (DVRPC) presented recommended changes to the long range plan, pending the comment period outcome, for Board adoption.

*Motion: by Brian Cuccia, seconded by John Boyle to adopt the draft conformity findings pending the completion of the comment period on November 30, 2006.*

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

**11. PCC/RTC Meeting Dates for 2007**

A set of proposed meeting dates for the PCC/RTC for calendar year 2007 was submitted to the committee for its consideration.

*Motion: by Lorraine Brill, seconded by Matthew Edmonds to accept the proposed meeting dates for the PCC/RTC for calendar year 2007.*

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

**PRESENTATION ITEM****12. US 322 Land Use and Transportation Corridor Study**

DVRPC is currently working with New Jersey Department of Transportation and Gloucester County on a 11-mile segment of US 322. The focus of this study is to assess land use and access management strategies and to evaluate the area's growth potential based on current zoning and proposed development scenarios. Karen Cilurso (DVRPC) presented the findings to date, as well as the next steps of the study.

**DISCUSSION ITEM****13. Improved Rail Access to Philadelphia International Airport (PHL)**

Some travelers have raised issues pertaining to the transferability between SEPTA's R1 (Airport) Regional Rail line and other transit modes. Roger Moog (DVRPC) discussed how more frequent and more efficient transit access to PHL could improve airport operations and result in a more pleasant ride for air travelers.

Several members of the RTC joined in this discussion, highlighting the need for around the clock service to the airport via SEPTA, NJ Transit, and PatCO. Issues of security and coordination with other rail lines and public transportation options were also raised. Finally, Catherine Popp-McDonough (SEPTA) informed the RTC members that due to the current single-track rail configuration at the airport, capital improvements would be needed to accommodate operations on more than one track.

**14. Overview of "Should to Shall" PennDOT Strike-Off Letter**

John Madera (DVRPC) briefly discussed this PennDOT policy change, referred to as "Should to Shall." This new policy requires highway project managers and design engineers to use PennDOT's bicycle/pedestrian checklists on every job, including Highway Occupancy Permits (HOPs). Slated to take effect on January 1, 2007, the open period for comments ends November 15, 2006.

**INFORMATION ITEMS****15. One Minute Reports**

PCC/RTC Members and guests will be invited to provide updates on the activities of their agencies.

**16. Old Business and New Business****17. Meeting Adjournment**

The next scheduled meeting of the PCC/RTC is January 9, 2007.



**ATTENDANCE (cont'd)**

**Other Member Representatives and Guests**

Kathleen Zubrzycki – SEPTA

Amy Valentin – SEPTA

Glenn Reibman – Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission

Steve Buckley – Parsons Brinkerhoff

Darren Fava – CPTMA

Eric Larkin – UTCA-NJ

**DVRPC Staff**

Don Shanis

Charles Dougherty

Elizabeth Schoonmaker

Sarah Oaks

Karen Cilurso

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John Madera

Roger Moog

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