

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
PLANNING COORDINATING COMMITTEE/
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
March 6, 2007 Meeting Highlights
DVRPC Conference Room, Philadelphia, PA

1. Call to Order - Chairman's Comments

Catherine Popp-McDonough (SEPTA) welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Ms. Popp-McDonough made several announcements about upcoming SEPTA public hearings. The first hearing will address SEPTA's \$426.1 million fiscal year 2008 capital budget and will take place at SEPTA's headquarters (1234 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA) on April 5, 2007 at both 11:00am and 5:00pm. SEPTA's operating budget, totalling over \$1 billion, will be discussed at public hearings in each county between April 10, 2007 and April 16, 2007.

Ms. Popp-McDonough also announced that the Market-Frankford El recently celebrated its 100th birthday on March 4, 2007.

Finally, the RTC meeting scheduled for May 8, 2007 will be held at SEPTA headquarters (1234 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA). There will be an optional tour of SEPTA's control center after the meeting.

2. Deputy Executive Director's Report

Dr. Don Shanis (DVRPC) urged RTC members to get acquainted with the issues surrounding the leasing of transportation assets and public transit fare hikes that are expected in both PA and NJ. A brief article by Kenneth Orski detailing the asset monetization in both states was included in the RTC packet.

Dr. Shanis also reminded the committee of several upcoming meetings including the Board Policy Committee (PA) meeting on March 9, 2007 and the Central Jersey Transportation Forum meeting on March 16, 2007. In addition, Governor Ed Rendell may attend the next board meeting on March 22, 2007 to discuss the state's transportation budget. Finally, attendees were reminded of the APA national conference that will be held in Philadelphia on April 14-18, 2007.

3. Report on Regional Citizens Committee Activities

Lorraine Brill provided information on the RCC meeting held on February 13, 2007. At the February RCC meeting, members voiced concerns about the inclusion of bicycle and pedestrian considerations in roundabout planning. Rosemarie Anderson (DVRPC) has agreed to bring relevant information on this topic to the next RCC meeting on March 13, 2007.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Highlights of the Meeting of February 6, 2007

The highlights from the February 6, 2007 meeting of the PCC/RTC were presented for adoption.

Motion: by Matt Lawson, seconded by Brian Cuccia to adopt the highlights for the February 6, 2007 PCC/RTC meeting.

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

5. DVRPC Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Actions

Elizabeth Schoonmaker presented eight TIP amendments for consideration.

a. TIP Action NJ07- 11: Tomlin Station Road Bridges over Nehonsey Brook and White Sluice Race, (DB# D038), Gloucester County

Gloucester County has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2007-2009 TIP for New Jersey by increasing the construction phase of Tomlin Station Road Bridges over Nehonsey Brook and White Sluice Race (DB# D038), by \$2 million STP-STU funds in FY07. The construction phase is already programmed for \$1.9 million bridge funds. The cost increase is due to an inaccurate original cost estimate as well as the sharp increase of materials. The additional funding for the FY07 construction phase will be drawn from multiple line items. \$799,000 STP-STU will be drawn down from the FY07 DVRPC Future Projects line item (DB# D026), and \$1.2 million will be drawn from the FY07 DVRPC Local Scoping Line Item (DB# X80B). This project will provide for the complete removal and replacement of two structurally deficient bridges (Structure Nos. 0803E01 and 0803E09). Both bridges are currently weight restricted due to their substandard design and/or structural condition. The replacement structures are anticipated to be precast/prestressed concrete beam construction with pile supported abutments and wingwalls. Currently, \$799,000 STP-STU is available in the FY07 Future Projects Line item, and \$700,000 will remain in FY07 after this action. \$1.6 million is available in the FY07 Local Scoping Line Item for selected projects, and \$429,000 will remain in FY07 after this action.

b. **TIP Action NJ07- 12: CR 533 Hamilton Township, Mercer County Signal Project - (Proposed New Study and Development Project, DB# TBD), Mercer County**

Mercer County has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2007-2009 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new project to the Study and Development Program, the CR 533 Hamilton Township, Mercer County Signal Project (DB# TBD), and programming \$220,000 STP-STU funds in FY07 for the local preliminary design (LPD) phase. Funding will be drawn down from the FY07 DVRPC Local Scoping Line Item (DB# X80B). The project will include the development of operations plans and signal timing plans in an effort to improve traffic signal coordination for (21) existing signalized intersections on CR 533 in Mercer County from Whitehorse Circle to Nassau Park Boulevard in Hamilton Township (8.4 miles). The plans will address the management of traffic under both peak period conditions as well as off-peak conditions and will be consistent with the Delaware Valley Regional ITS Architecture. Currently, \$429,000 STP-STU is available in the FY07 Local Scoping Line Item for selected projects, and \$209,000 will remain in FY07 after this action.

Motion: by Carol Thomas, seconded by Brian Cuccia to modify the FY2007-2009 TIP for New Jersey by increasing the construction phase of Tomlin Station Road Bridges over Nehonsey Brook and White Sluice Race (DB# D038), by \$2 million STP-STU funds in FY07; and to modify the FY2007-2009 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new project to the Study and Development Program, the CR 533 Hamilton Township, Mercer County Signal Project (DB# TBD), and programming \$220,000 STP-STU funds in FY07 for the local preliminary design (LPD) phase.

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

c. **TIP Action PA07- 27: Montgomery Avenue/Conshohocken State Road Closed Loop Signal Improvement, (MPMS #48180), Montgomery County**

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a project back into the current TIP, the Montgomery Avenue/ Conshohocken State Road Closed Loop Signal Improvement (MPMS #48180) by programming \$2.8 million STP funds in the FY07 and FY08 construction phases. This project was originally programmed in the FY 2005-2008 Pennsylvania TIP, but the construction phase was never obligated and the project was not carried over to the FY07 program. This locally designed project will provide for the installation of a closed loop signal system at thirty (30) intersections along Montgomery Avenue in Lower Merion Township from US 1 (City Avenue) to Matsonford Road. The system will include mostly in-road loop detectors and one microwave detector, will be interconnected via fiber optics, and will be monitored by Lower Merion Township, allowing remote access by PennDOT. New pedestrian timings,

crosswalks, and hand/man signals will be included. This project is a component of the Transportation System Management (TSM) plan for I-76. Funding will be programmed for construction in FY07 (\$880,000 STP) and FY08 (\$1,920,000 STP) and the project title and description will be updated.

Motion: by Leo Bagley, seconded by Linda Guarini to amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a project back into the current TIP, the Montgomery Avenue/ Conshohocken State Road Closed Loop Signal Improvement (MPMS #48180) by programming \$2.8 million STP funds in the FY07 and FY08 construction phases.

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

d. **TIP Action PA07- 28: Villanova Intermodal Station Accessibility - (Proposed New DEMO Project), (MPMS #15407), SEPTA**

On behalf of Villanova University, SEPTA has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new transit project to the TIP, the Villanova Intermodal Station Accessibility Project (MPMS #15407). This \$6.72 million project will be funded by 2 SAFETEA-LU earmarks (a \$3 million transit earmark, ID# 628, and a \$2.38 million highway earmark, ID #2561) combined with a \$1.34 million local match provided by Villanova. FTA and FHWA have agreed that the highway earmark will be flexed to SEPTA. The project will involve the design and construction of a pedestrian overpass to the east of the Villanova Station, which is located on SEPTA's R5 Paoli/Thorndale Regional Rail line. Elevators and high-level platforms will be constructed on each side of the tracks to provide an accessible connection between both sides of the rail line and to the University buildings. Design will include bicycle storage, renovation of the station building, and renovation or replacement of the existing canopy structures on both sides of the tracks. The transit earmark will be programmed for final design in FY07 (\$807,000 FTA/\$202,000 local) and construction in FY07(\$594,000 FTA/\$148,000 local), FY08 (\$776,000 FTA/\$194,000 local), FY09 (\$823,000 FTA/\$206,000 local). The highway earmark will all be programmed for construction in FY07 (\$2,380,800 DEMO/\$595,200 local) and will be flexed to SEPTA.

Motion: by Alex Flemming, seconded by Linda Guarini to amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new transit project to the TIP, the Villanova Intermodal Station Accessibility Project (MPMS #15407).

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

- e. TIP Action PA07- 29: Deferrals Resulting in Technical Deletions from the TIP, (MPMS # 57894, 70014, 17697, 57893, 62717, 17652, 17659, 16334, 48187, 57635, 57901)
- 1) Stenton Avenue/Godfrey Avenue Signal Improvement, (MPMS #57894), Philadelphia
 - 2) Center City Signal Improvement, Phase 3, (MPMS #70014), Philadelphia
 - 3) Island Avenue Signal Improvement, (MPMS #17697), Philadelphia
 - 4) Lehigh Avenue East Signal Improvement, (MPMS #57893), Philadelphia
 - 5) Lehigh Avenue West Signal Improvement, (MPMS #62717), Philadelphia
 - 6) PA 611, North Broad Street Corridor Improvements, (MPMS #17652), Philadelphia
 - 7) Harbison Avenue/Aramingo Avenue Corridor Safety Improvements, (MPMS #17659), Philadelphia
 - 8) Church Road Signal Improvements, (MPMS #16334), Montgomery County
 - 9) I-76 Interstate and Henderson Road Widening, (MPMS #48187), Montgomery County
 - 10) Quakertown Closed Loop Signal Improvement, (MPMS #57635), Bucks County
 - 11) Lincoln Drive Highway Reconstruction, (MPMS #57901), Philadelphia

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by deferring phases for several projects in the TIP. The bulk of the deleted projects are the result of a substantial cost increase to the Center City Traffic Signal System (MPMS #17655) which has required that several other signal projects (MPMS #57894, 70014, 17697, 57893, 62717, 17652, and 17659) be deferred in order to maintain fiscal constraint, and PennDOT and the City of Philadelphia have negotiated how to address the issue. More accurate "let" schedules have also been identified for projects in this list. Phases being pushed out of the 4 year TIP program results in "technical deletions" of several projects. All of the projects deferred as part of this

action will continue to show in the program with funding captured in “Later Fiscal Years” and their let date noted.

Motion: by Chivas Grannum, seconded by Jim Mosca to amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by deferring phases for several projects (MPMS # 57894, 70014, 17697, 57893, 62717, 17652, 17659, 16334, 48187, 57635, 57901) in the TIP.

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

f. **TIP Action PA07- 30: Center City Traffic System Signal Improvement, (MPMS #17655), Philadelphia**

The City of Philadelphia Streets Department has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a project back into the TIP, the Center City Traffic System Phase II project, and increasing the construction programming from its original estimate of \$7.3 million to a total of \$18.6 million in FY07, FY08, and FY09, using a combination of federal highway, CMAQ and local funds. The project was not let for construction last year as expected, was not carried over to the FY07 TIP, and experienced a significant cost increase which requires funding to be programmed now in order to advance to construction. The city has opted to advance this priority signal project, recognizing that several other smaller signal projects (MPMS #57894, 70014, 17697, 57893, 62717, 17652, and 17659) will need to be deferred in order to maintain fiscal constraint of the TIP, and because they will not be ready to advance to construction in the next couple of years.

The Phase II signal system involves approximately 170 signals at 72 intersections in the southeast quadrant of Center City from Market to South Streets and Front to Broad Streets. Almost all of the signals are replacements and will be interconnected by fiber optics and tied into a central system. The system can be monitored from both the Municipal Services Building and the Traffic Shop, will be monitored by the City's Traffic Engineering Division, and will allow remote access by PennDOT. New hand/Man signals and signs, pedestrian timings, crosswalks, and 10 incident management cameras will be part of the project.

Motion: by Chivas Grannum, seconded by Linda Guarini to amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a project back into the TIP, the Center City Traffic System Phase II project, and increasing the construction programming from its original estimate of \$7.3 million to a total of \$18.6 million in FY07, FY08, and FY09, using a combination of federal highway, CMAQ and local funds.

Motion passed. One abstention. All other votes were case in favor of the motion.

g. TIP Action PA07- 31: Easton Road Closed Loop Signal System, (MPMS #61061), Bucks County

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a project back into the current TIP, the Easton Road Closed Loop Signal System (MPMS #61061), by programming \$883,000 CMAQ funds in FY07 and FY09 for construction. This project was originally programmed in the FY 2005-2008 Pennsylvania TIP, but the construction phase was never obligated and the project was never carried over to the FY07 program. The project will provide for the interconnection of sixteen (16) traffic signals along and near Easton Road in Warrington and Horsham Townships. The system will be interconnected with fiber optics, monitored by Warrington Township, and will provide remote access to PennDOT. In-road Loop detectors will be used with one video detector at the Naval Air Station Drive. The system will connect with another signal system to the south, which goes as far as the PA Turnpike, enabling PennDOT to "take over" the corridor should there be a major traffic problem on the Turnpike. Funding will be programmed for construction in FY07 (\$222,000 CMAQ) and FY09 (\$661,000 CMAQ).

h. TIP Action PA07- 32: I-476, Schuylkill River Bridge Rehabilitation, (MPMS #77523), Philadelphia

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP, I-476, Schuylkill River Bridge Rehabilitation (MPMS #77523), by programming a \$50,000 utility phase and a \$740,000 construction phase in FY07 and FY08. This project will provide for urgently needed repairs to a crack in a steel pier and deteriorated deck joints discovered during inspection. The request for a new project is made now in lieu of an emergency declaration should the bridge fail. Additionally, the repairs must be made prior to the I-476 Reconstruction project (MPMS #16737). Funding will be programmed for utility in FY07 (\$40,000 HWY/\$4,000 STATE) and FY08 (\$5,000 HWY/\$1,000 STATE), and for construction in FY07 (\$20,000 HWY/\$2,000 STATE) and FY08 (\$646,000 HWY/\$72,000 STATE).

Motion: by Leo Bagley, seconded by Linda Guarini to amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a project back into the current TIP, the Easton Road Closed Loop Signal System (MPMS #61061), by programming \$883,000 CMAQ funds in FY07 and FY09 for construction; and to amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP, I-476, Schuylkill River Bridge Rehabilitation (MPMS #77523), by programming a \$50,000 utility phase and a \$740,000 construction phase in FY07 and FY08.

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

6. Fiscal Year 2007 Planning Work Program Amendments**a. Princeton Junction Station Transit Oriented Development (TOD)**

Item postponed until next RTC meeting, April 3, 2007.

7. Historic Trolley Routes Through Older Suburbs: A Plan for Revitalization

Dr. Joseph Hacker (DVRPC) presented an application for an FHWA Transportation, Community, and System Preservation (TCSP) grant to address coordinated multi-municipal planning along the Routes 101 & 102 trolley lines in Delaware County. The central intention of the project is to develop coordinated land use and transportation strategies to reinforce both trolley ridership and community / economic development. The grant request is for roughly \$400,000, requiring a 20% cash/in-kind local match of a configuration to the determined.

Motion: by Alex Flemming, seconded by John Boyle to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve the TCSP grant request application to address coordinated multi-municipal planning along the Routes 101 & 102 trolley lines in Delaware County.

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

8. PennVEST Application Review

DVRPC recently received one PennVest application in Montgomery County to review its consistency with city, county, and regional land use plans. Patty Elkins (DVRPC) provided an overview of the application, which was submitted by Norristown Municipal Waste Authority. The Authority requested \$6,345,348 from PennVest to rehabilitate or replace 10,200 feet of sanitary sewer line and to eliminate 5,513 feet of combined sewer overflows and to eliminate one combined sewer overflow discharge point. Ms. Elkins recommended approval of this application as the project coincides with the *Destination 2030* policy to reinvest in communities to renew and stabilize neighborhoods and reverse declining trends.

Motion: by Leo Bagley, seconded by Brian Cuccia to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve the PennVest grant application from the Norristown Municipal Waste Authority.

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

PRESENTATION ITEM

9. Regional Scope - Regional Tools: Moving beyond corridors and nodes

Dr. Joseph Hacker (DVRPC) updated the RTC on the "Transit Score" project, which is a tool permitting regional "apples to apples" comparison of transit service appropriateness based on demographic and land use attributes. This was an update of the presentation made at the national conference of the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations in November 2006.

10. Developing Around Transit

Karin Morris (DVRPC) presented an overview of recent work on Transit-Oriented Development (TOD), including Developing Around Transit: TOD Plans for Ellsworth-Federal, North Wales, and Warminster. Ms. Morris also reviewed the results of a recent TOD related survey that was sent to municipalities in the region that have a transit station (focusing on rail and trolley). Finally, Ms. Morris presented the direction of DVRPC's future work on TOD, including a station area plan for Wawa Station (SEPTA R3 Elwyn extension), a TOD evaluation report, and continued advocacy and education in the area of TOD.

INFORMATION ITEMS

11. Framework For A National Freight Policy

Ted Dahlburg (DVRPC) highlighted features of a framework for a national freight policy (now in draft form) promulgated by United States Department of Transportation. The framework consists of four overarching themes and seven objectives with supporting strategies and tactics which jurisdictions may use to address opportunities and challenges associated with the movement of freight.

16. One Minute Reports

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

17. Old Business and New Business

18. Meeting Adjournment

The next scheduled meeting of the PCC/RTC is April 3, 2007. Please note that the meeting was changed from the original date of April 10, 2007 to accommodate the NJ TransAction Conference.

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

Dave Johnson
 Carol Thomas
 Curt Noe
 Randy Waltermeyer
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 Alex Flemming
 Linda Hayes
 John Boyle
 Lorraine Brill
 Jessica Lucas
 Matthew Lawson
 Leo Bagley
 Brian Cuccia
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 Jerry Lutin
 (not represented)
 Jim Mosca
 Linda Guarini
 (not represented)
 Chivas Grannum
 Kenneth Lomax
 Catherine Popp-McDonough

Non-Voting Members

Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission
 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
 US EPA - Region II
 US EPA - Region III

Representative

Glenn Reibman
 Kelvin MacKavanagh
 (not represented)
 Matt Smoker
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 Brian Wahler
 William Ragozine
 (not represented)
 Peter Quinn
 Don Steele
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 Martin Kotsch

ATTENDANCE (cont'd)

Other Member Representatives and Guests

Jonathan Konis – PennDOT
Wally D. Frermannis – PennDOT
Randy Varhese – PennDOT
Bob Morris – Villanova University
Les Varga – SJTPO
Jim McQuilkin – DRPA
Andrea Jordan – City of Philadelphia Streets Department
Darin Gatti – City of Philadelphia Streets Department
Ben Ginsberg – CPTMA

DVRPC Staff

Don Shanis
Charles Dougherty
John Ward
Elizabeth Schoonmaker
Gastonia Anderson
Matthew West
Kelly Rossiter