

**DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
PLANNING COORDINATING COMMITTEE/
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**April 3, 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 reminded RTC meeting attendees that the next RTC meeting will be held at SEPTA headquarters (1234 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA) on May 8, 2007. There will be an optional tour of SEPTA's control center after the meeting.

2. Deputy Executive Director's Report

Dr. Don Shanis (DVRPC) announced that Governor Ed Rendell addressed the March 2007 DVRPC Board Meeting to discuss his recent proposal to fund highways, bridges, and transit in Pennsylvania. Dr. Shanis also mentioned that NJ Transit has a new Executive Director, Richard Sarles.

The committee was then reminded of several upcoming conferences in the Philadelphia region: NJ TransAction Conference will take place in Atlantic City from April 10-12, 2007; The APA national conference will be held in Philadelphia on April 14-18, 2007; and the ULI is sponsoring an event focused on the future of transportation infrastructure at the Philadelphia Marriott on April 19, 2007.

3. Report on Regional Citizens Committee Activities

John Boyle provided information on the RCC meeting held on March 13, 2007. At that meeting RCC members discussed the proposed highway expansion of US 202, section 700. Though no official resolution was made, the majority of attendees were not in support of this proposed expansion. The RCC also discussed the upcoming development of casinos in Philadelphia, noting that the Philadelphia Water Company was not included in the Penn Praxis design team.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Highlights of the Meeting of March 6, 2007

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

Motion: by Brian Cuccia, seconded by Matt Lawson to adopt the highlights for the March 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. NJ07-16: Mercer County Reflective Pavement Markings/Roadway Safety Improvements (DB #D0402)

Mercer County has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for New Jersey by changing the title of the Mercer County Reflective Pavement Markings Project (DB #D0412) to Mercer County Roadway Safety Improvements. This change will allow the county more flexibility to implement various types of safety improvements on county roadways. All four of the New Jersey counties (Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Mercer) have Reflective Pavement Marker programs funded at \$500,000 every other year, and DVRPC recommends that the pavement marker programs in each of the four New Jersey counties be re-named accordingly in the updated FY2008 NJ TIP that becomes effective October 1, 2007, to allow all counties greater flexibility in approved methods and funding to implement projects that improve the overall safety and visibility of various roadways in the county.

Motion: by Matthew Lawson, seconded by Jessica Lucas to amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for New Jersey by changing the title of the Mercer County Reflective Pavement Markings Project (DB #D0412) to Mercer County Roadway Safety Improvements.

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

- b. **PA07-34: Deferrals Resulting in Technical Deletions from the TIP, (MPMS #'s 63491, 64494, 14296, 14492, 14891)**
- 1) **US 202, Morris Road to PA 63, Hancock Road (Sec. 65S), (MPMS #63491), Montgomery County**
 - 2) **US 202, Swedesford Road to Route 29 (Sec. 320), (MPMS #64494), Chester County**
 - 3) **US 30, Lancaster Avenue and Waterloo Road, (MPMS #14296), Chester County**
 - 4) **Pickering Road over Pickering Creek Bridge Replacement (Bridge #315), (MPMS #14492), Chester County**
 - 5) **Darby/Paoli Road over Little Darby Creek Bridge Replacement, (MPMS #14891), Delaware County**

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by deferring current phases for three projects in the TIP to reflect a more accurate let schedule and maintain fiscal constraint of the TIP.

Please Note: The deferral of the construction phase of US 202, Section 320, Swedesford Road to Route 29 (Section 320), (MPMS #64494) in Chester County will be addressed at a future meeting. Also, Pickering Road over Pickering Creek Bridge Replacement (Bridge #315) (MPMS #14492) in Chester County, expects to advance to construction in FY08 and will not be deferred as was proposed by PennDOT earlier in the month.

The \$38.5 million construction phase of US 202, Morris Road to PA 63, Hancock Road (Section 65S), (MPMS #63491), is not expected to begin until FY2011. Funding has been pushed back to reflect a more accurate let schedule and will instead be programmed to fund the cost increase for the widening of US 202, from Hancock Road to PA 309, (MPMS #63492), which is a higher priority for Montgomery County and is estimated to be let for construction in FY2008.

Construction phases for the US 30, Lancaster Avenue and Waterloo Road, (MPMS #14296), and Darby/Paoli Road over Little Darby Creek Bridge Replacement (MPMS #14891) projects have also been deferred based on the updated estimated let dates of FY11.

Motion: by Leo Bagley, seconded by David Johnson to amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by deferring current phases for US 202, Morris Road to PA 63, Hancock Road (Section 65S), (MPMS #63491); US 30, Lancaster Avenue and Waterloo Road, (MPMS #14296); and Darby/Paoli Road over Little Darby Creek Bridge Replacement (MPMS #14891).

Motion passed. One abstention; all other votes were cast in favor of the motion.

c. **PA07-35b: Route 322, Commodore Barry Bridge and I-95 2nd Street Interchange (MPMS # 57780), Delaware County**

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by programming an additional \$18.093 million funding for the Route 322/Commodore Barry Bridge/I-95/2nd Street new interchange project (MPMS #57780). The request for additional funds is for:

- \$1.280 million in final design (\$800,000 STU/\$200,000 State in FY2008 and \$224,000 STU/\$56,000 state in FY2009) for design of several items including: a new bridge over Front Street; signage; drainage; environmental mitigation; and a traffic management plan.
- \$175,000 state funds in FY2007 for additional utility costs related to Amtrak agreements and contingencies.
- \$16.638 million for construction (\$8.366 million Highway/\$2.091 million state in FY2009 and \$4.945 million highway/\$1.236 million state in FY2010). Total costs are higher than currently reflected because the May 2006 project construction estimate (\$43.5 million) was not included in the FY2007 TIP update, combined with additional bridge; drainage, signage, and equipment requirements.

d. **PA07-35c: US 202, TR 252 to US 30 (Sec. 300 Design), (MPMS #13945), Chester County**

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a previously obligated project back into the TIP, US 202, PA 252 to US 30 (Section 300 Design) (MPMS #13945), and increasing the engineering phases by \$11.8 million in FY2007, FY2008, FY2009, and FY2010. The additional \$11.8 million will be used to cover cost increases in the design contract (approximately \$7.5 million) as well as the Congestion Management Process (CMP) efforts (approximately \$4.5 million).

Additional funding from this action will be programmed for preliminary engineering in FY2007 (\$275,000 STU/\$69,000 State), FY2008 (\$836,000 NHS/\$209,000 State), and FY2009 (329,000 NHS/\$83,000 State); final design in FY07 (\$350,000 NHS/\$87,000 State), FY2008 (\$800,000 NHS/\$200,000 State), FY2009 (\$2,000,000 NHS/\$500,000 State), and FY2010 (\$4,850,000 NHS/\$1,213,000 State).

e. **PA07-35d: Gulph Road over Trout Run Bridge Replacement, (MPMS #57678), Chester County**

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a project back into the TIP, the Gulph Road Over Trout Run Bridge Replacement project (MPMS #57678), and programming

\$1.7 million state funds for construction in FY2007. This project involves the replacement of an existing structurally deficient and functionally obsolete, weight posted, historic stone arch bridge located in a detailed FEMA study area. The bridge design will have to comply with the historic nature of the area as well as the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office, whose purpose is to identify and protect the architectural and archaeological resources of Pennsylvania. A stone facing and an arched underside are required to satisfy various regulatory agencies, and existing or comparable stone will be used along the outside and along the parapet of the bridge. The proposed structure will have a span of 68.5 feet and will carry two 10 foot lanes and two 4 foot shoulders. A 24 inch water main, a 24 inch and 8 inch sanitary sewer lines and 4 inch gas main required relocation as part of this project. Funding will be programmed in FY2007 (\$1,700,000 State).

Motion: by Lee Whitmore, seconded by Thomas Shaffer to modify the 2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding \$18.093 million to the Route 322/Commodore Barry Bridge/I-95/2nd Street new interchange project (MPMS #57780); to amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a previously obligated project back into the TIP, US 202, PA 252 to US 30 (Section 300 Design) (MPMS #13945), and increasing the engineering phases by \$11.8 million in FY2007, FY2008, FY2009, and FY2010; and to amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a project back into the TIP, the Gulph Road Over Trout Run Bridge Replacement project (MPMS #57678), and programming \$1.7 million state funds for construction in FY2007.

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

f. **PA07-36: Whitemarsh Township Street Improvements (Proposed New DEMO Project), (MPMS #74937/74816), Montgomery County**

Whitemarsh Township has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new DEMO project to the TIP, Whitemarsh Township Street Improvements (Proposed New DEMO Project), (MPMS #74937/74816), by programming DEMO funds provided by two (2) SAFETEA-LU earmarks, (ID# 3516) \$640,000; (ID# 2556) \$1.2 million, and a \$625,000 local match provided by Whitemarsh Township in FY2007, FY2008 and FY2009. The final design phase will be funded by 100% local funds. Funding will be programmed for final design in FY2007 (\$165,000 Local match); construction in FY2008 (\$920,000 DEMO/\$230,000 Local match) and FY2009 (\$920,000 DEMO/\$230,000 Local match). Any additional funds required to complete the project will be provided locally.

Motion: by Linda Guarini, seconded by Leo Bagley to amend the FY2007-2010 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new DEMO project to the TIP— Whitemarsh Township Street Improvements (Proposed New DEMO Project) (MPMS #74937/74816), by programming DEMO funds

provided by two (2) SAFETEA-LU earmarks, (ID# 3516) \$640,000; (ID# 2556) \$1.2 million, and a \$625,000 local match provided by Whitemarsh Township in FY2007, FY2008 and FY2009.

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

6. Benjamin Franklin Parkway Transportation Enhancement Project

Ryan Gallagher (DVRPC) reviewed the request for \$750,000 from the Secretary's Transportation Enhancement Discretionary funds by the Center City District (CCD), in conjunction with PennDOT District 6-0. The fund would be used for additional landscape enhancements of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. The improvements for phase 2 include the creation of a new public plaza in the park that will accommodate a new Parkway Visitor's Information Center co-located with a café.

Motion: by Anthony Santaniello, seconded by John Boyle to recommend Board approval to amend the FY2007-2010 TIP to make the requested funding from the Secretary's Discretionary Transportation Enhancement Fund available for the Benjamin Franklin Parkway Project.

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

7. JFK Boulevard Clock Project

Ryan Gallagher (DVRPC) reviewed the request by the Schuylkill River Development Corporation (SRDC) in conjunction with PennDOT District 6-0, for \$28,750 from the Secretary's Transportation Enhancement Discretionary funds. The funding would be used for the purchase and installation of pedestal-mounted clock. This project is located outside of Amtrak's 30th Street Train Station on the west side of the intersection of JFK Boulevard and Schuylkill Avenue in the City of Philadelphia.

Motion: by Anthony Santaniello, seconded by Thomas Shaffer to recommend Board approval to amend the FY2007-2010 TIP by programming available funding from the Secretary's Discretionary Transportation Enhancement Fund for the JFK Boulevard Clock Project

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

8. 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. Princeton Junction Station Transit Oriented Development (TOD)

West Windsor Township is currently working with the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) and NJTransit to develop a transit-oriented development (TOD) plan for the Princeton Junction station. The township has retained the Hiller Group to perform consultant services to prepare the TOD plan, and is desirous of supplementing the current work program with additional public involvement activities to be scheduled later this spring.

Rich Bickel (DVRPC) addressed the RTC on behalf of NJDOT and the Township, who have requested that DVRPC support an amendment to the FY2007 Planning Work Program to undertake the additional public involvement activities. To implement the proposed supplemental public involvement activities, DVRPC would execute a contract with NJDOT and a separate contract with the Hillier Group and West Windsor Township.

Motion: by Matthew Lawson, seconded by John Boyle to recommend Board approval of the proposed FY2007 Planning Work Program amendment to enable the supplemental public involvement activities to proceed on a timely basis.

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

b. Dots and Dashes: Game Playing for Long Range Consensus Building

Joseph Hacker (DVRPC) reviewed the Dots and Dashes pilot project, which recently received a competitive grant of \$100,000 from the FTA's Public Transportation Participation Pilot Program. The funding will be used during FY2008 to develop and use a new method of participatory community outreach in building and assessing transit priorities in the DVRPC region. It involves an innovative group game playing method, which would educate participants and develop group consensus on regional transit priorities. The program is a collaborative effort of the DVRPC Offices of Public Affairs, Long Range Planning, and Transit Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning.

Motion: by Jerry Lutin, seconded by Jessica Lucas to recommend Board approval of this project for inclusion into the FY 2008 work program.

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

9. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for DVRPC and SEPTA

Joseph Hacker (DVRPC) presented a MOU between DVRPC and SEPTA, which is being advanced to cooperatively define their mutual responsibilities in carrying out the metropolitan transportation planning process. This MOU was previously brought before the RTC. Since that time, revisions have been made and agreed to by the involved parties. A revised copy was made available to RTC/PCC members, who were asked to recommend to the Board the approval of the MOU.

Motion: by Jessica Lucas, seconded by Anthony Santaniello to recommend Board approval of the MOU between DVRPC and SEPTA.

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

10. Principles for Transportation Funding Reform in Pennsylvania

In response to both the December 2006 report of the Pennsylvania Transportation and Reform Commission, and the message and specific recommendations from Governor Ed Rendell as presented at the March 22, 2007 DVRPC Board meeting, the DVRPC Board has drafted a set of Principles for Transportation Funding Reform in Pennsylvania. Rich Bickel (DVRPC) presented this item and asked the RTC to recommend to the Board the adoption of the Principles for Transportation Funding Reform in Pennsylvania at the April 26, 2007 Board meeting.

Discussion on this topic followed, with several representatives from Pennsylvania Counties voicing their opinion on the draft document.

Kathleen Zubrzycki (SEPTA) suggested that DVRPC reach out to other MPO's / RPO's to encourage them to create a similar document.

Leo Bagley (Montgomery County) mentioned several issue areas on which Montgomery County Commissioners have expressed a strong position. These points include but are not limited to, balancing traffic and revenue generation by tolling other major roadways such as I-78 and I-80, creating constitutionally protected funding as a result of any agreement with a private entity to lease the PA Turnpike and changing the funding for local bridge rehabilitation and construction projects to a 95% State and 5% local match formula. Mr. Bagley also spoke about the option of "flexing" transportation funding from highway and bridge projects to transit related expenses as related to the five contingencies noted in the draft document in case of this situation. Mr. Bagley, and the Montgomery County Commissioners showed support for option #5 only; in which flexing funds would result in the State using its bonding capacity to return the flexed money to the transportation funding pool over time.

Thomas Shaffer (Delaware County) showed support for Mr. Bagley's comments and also requested that the document state that any additional funding available for future transportation projects should to be indexed to inflation.

David Johnson (Bucks County) noted that he would not embrace the inclusion of the option to "flex" funding in the draft document.

Lee Whitmore (Chester County) showed support for the comments previously made by representatives from other counties, and also suggested that DVRPC move cautiously and gain input from local county officials before bringing a document to the Board.

Motion: by Thomas Shaffer, seconded by Anthony Santaniello to allow a PA subcommittee, led by Leo Bagley, to amend the current draft document and submit the final draft to the Board for approval.

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

11. FY 2007 NJ Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) Grant Program.

Karen Cilurso (DVRPC) presented the prioritized list of NJ JARC projects for Rounds 8 and 9 of the FTA JARC Program.

Motion: by Carol Thomas, seconded by Jessica Lucas to recommend the current project rankings to for NJ JARC projects to the Board for approval.

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

12. Appointment of Nominating Committee for FY 2008 DVRPC PCC/RTC Officers

Catherine Popp-McDonough (SEPTA) announced the Nominating Committee to appoint candidates for Chairman and Vice Chairman for the PCC/RTC for Fiscal Year 2008 (July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008). The selected committee members are: Catherine Popp-McDonough, Donald Shanis and Linda Hayes (DRPA). Elections for the Chairman and Vice Chairman positions will take place at the June 2007 PCC/RTC Meeting.

Motion: by Carol Thomas, seconded by John Boyle to approve the selected members of the Nominating Committee, who will appoint candidates for Chairman and Vice Chairman for the PCC/RTC for Fiscal Year 2008.

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

PRESENTATION ITEM

13. Roundabouts 101

In recent years, roundabouts have increasingly become a viable option for relieving traffic congestion in communities around the United States. Jeff L'Amoreaux of Van Cleef Engineering Associates provided a brief overview on the background of roundabouts, including what they are, how effective they are, and how they operate.

INFORMATION ITEMS

14. Regional Aviation Planning Update

A number of important regional and national issues have recently arisen in aviation planning. Roger Moog (DVRPC) provided an update about these critical developments in aviation and how they affect the DVRPC region. Of note was the current redesign of air space for the Northeast corridor. Mr. Moog also mentioned a recent reauthorization of the Aviation Trust Fund by President Bush, though the authorized amount was 10%-15% less per year than the current level of funding. Finally, Mr. Moog announced that DVRPC's FY 2008 Work Program will include a study on ground access to Philadelphia International Airport.

15. Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan (CHSTP)

SAFETEA-LU mandates that the MPO adopt a Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan (CHSTP), which aims to improve transportation services for persons with disabilities, older adults and individuals with low incomes. Karen Cilurso announced that a draft CHSTP is complete and a 30-day public comment period is proposed to run from March 26, 2007 to April 24, 2007.

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 May 8, 2007. Please note that this meeting will be held at SEPTA Headquarters, located at 1234 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA.

ATTENDANCE (cont'd)

Other Member Representatives and Guests

Kathleen Zubrzycki– SEPTA
Jonathan Konis – PennDOT
Jim McQuilkin – DRPA
Tom Caramanic – CEO Council for Growth
Wesley Ratko – Montgomery County Planning Commission
Bob Scarlott – Burlington County
Tim Kelly – Clean Air Council
Warren Strumpford – RCC

DVRPC Staff

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