

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
PLANNING COORDINATING COMMITTEE/
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
July 10, 2007 Meeting Highlights
DVRPC Conference Room, Philadelphia, PA

1. Call to Order - Chairman's Comments

Matthew Lawson (Mercer County) welcomed everyone and thanked Catherine Popp-McDonough (SEPTA) for serving as Chairperson for the previous year.

Mr. Lawson addressed some concerns regarding administrative issues with the RTC meeting. As newly elected chairperson, he stated that he would like to explore different ways to make the RTC meetings run more efficiently. More specifically, he would like to curtail instances where presentations and other non-action items get postponed due to longer-than-usual action item discussions. A few specific options to increase the efficiency of the meeting were discussed, such as: moving the start time of the RTC to 9:30 AM; having fewer presentations on the agenda; having a "Working Lunch;" and continuing the meeting after lunch until 2:00 PM. Viable option will be explored for future meetings.

2. Deputy Executive Director's Report

Dr. Donald Shanis (DVRPC) updated members on the June 2007 DVRPC Board meeting. Dr. Shanis stated that the Board passed all actions that were presented. There was also a lengthy discussion of TIP deferrals that began at the June 2007 PCC/RTC meeting.

Dr. Shanis stated that he recently attended two meetings the New York State Metropolitan Planning Organizations and the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), where topics included: a new vision for transportation planning; creative means for funding transportation; freight planning; safety; and economic development.

Dr. Shanis also presented Catherine Popp-McDonough (in absentia) with a gift from the PCC/RTC in appreciation of her presiding as 2007 RTC Chairperson.

3. Report on Regional Citizens Committee Activities

John Boyle (RCC) provided information on the RCC meeting held on June 19, 2007. At that meeting, RCC members approved all TIP actions. Mr. Boyle stated that there were some concerns raised over some of the TIP actions (Please refer to the June 19, 2007 Meeting Minutes of the DVRPC RCC for specific details).

ACTION ITEMS**4. Highlights of the Meeting of June 12, 2007**

The highlights from the June 12, 2007 meeting of the PCC/RTC were presented for adoption.

Motion: by Brian Cuccia, seconded by Kenneth Lomax to adopt the highlights for the June 12, 2007 PCC/RTC meeting.

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

5. Fiscal Year 2008 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. Bicycle Education Enhancement Program (BEEP)

Elizabeth Smith (DVRPC) presented the Bicycle Education Enhancement Program (BEEP). The school District will continue our effort to ease traffic congestion and improve the region's air quality, by encouraging the use of alternative transportation modes. The tasks involved in this project are designed to provide continuity and to enhance activities begun under two previous PennDOT Transportation Education and Enhancement Program (BEEP) awards to the School District of Philadelphia.

Motion: by John Boyle, seconded by Kenneth Lomax to amend the Fiscal Year 2008 Planning Work Program to include the Bicycle Education Enhancement Program (BEEP).

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

6. 2035 Population and Employment Forecasts

Population and employment forecasts are an essential component of long-range regional planning. DVRPC adopted 2030 population and employment forecasts in March 2005. Working closely with the county planning commissions, DVRPC staff has prepared regional, county and municipal-level population and employment estimates in 5-year increments through 2035. Mary Bell (DVRPC) presented the 2035 population and employment forecasts and asked the RTC to recommend to the Board the adoption of the 2035 population and employment forecasts.

Motion: by Lee Whitmore, seconded by Curt Noe to recommend to the Board, the adoption of the 2035 population and employment forecasts.

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

PRESENTATION ITEMS**7. Uplan Land Use Planning Model Implementation**

Dr. W. Thomas Walker (DVRPC) and Brad Gudzinis (DVRPC) reported the progress of implementing the UPlan GIS-based land use planning model. The implementation strategy involves emulating ongoing DVRPC 2030 land use and transportation planning activities within UPlan as much as possible, while implementing the transportation/land use linkage recommended by federal guidelines. The UPlan model is useful in predicting the effects of new transportation facilities, both highway and transit, and land use policies on future population and employment distributions within a county.

DISCUSSION ITEM**8. Airport Zoning Issues: Recent Court Decision**

A recent Pennsylvania Supreme Court finding regarding overlay zoning districts to protect airport operating space will have impacts on Pennsylvania municipalities. Roger Moog (DVRPC) presented the findings and explained the impacts.

9. New Jersey Study and Development Program

John Coscia, Jr. (DVRPC) informed the members that DVRPC staff has worked with the New Jersey Subcommittee to develop a prioritized list of existing Study and Development projects that are currently not progressing, and that DVRPC staff would like to work with NJDOT staff to ensure that these projects are considered a priority and will begin to move forward within the next year.

INFORMATION ITEM**10. Transitioning to TOD: A Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Plan for SEPTA's Wawa Station**

Karin Morris (DVRPC) presented information on a report that includes a TOD plan for SEPTA's pending reopening of the Wawa rail station in Chester Heights Borough, Delaware County. SEPTA currently plans to reinstate R3 Regional Rail service between the Elwyn and Wawa stations by the year 2011. The Wawa station is located in a growing area that offers excellent opportunities for TOD, including a 153-acre redevelopment site that contains the former headquarters of the Franklin Mint.

11. DVRPC Competitive Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program

Every several years, DVRPC requests applications from public agencies, incorporated private firms, and non-profits to fund projects that help manage congestion and reduce emissions from vehicular sources. Action to open another round of competition was tabled at the June 2007 RTC meeting pending discussions with the PA Subcommittee concerning availability of funds. Elizabeth Schoonmaker (DVRPC) provided a status report.

12. FY07 Pennsylvania Transportation Improvement Program (PA TIP) Deferred/Deleted Projects

Elizabeth Schoonmaker (DVRPC) informed the members that DVRPC has been keeping an account of the projects that have been significantly deferred or technically deleted from FY07 PA TIP over the course the past federal fiscal year 2007 due to the transportation funding crisis in Pennsylvania. To date, approximately \$200 million worth of projects have been pushed into FY10 or later Fiscal Years due to cost increase to projects expected to advance shortly, or new projects which have been added to the program. Running totals by county are now being tracked as well.

13. One Minute Reports

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

14. Old Business and New Business

15. Meeting Adjournment

Motion: by Brian Cuccia, seconded by Curt Noe to adjourn the PCC/RTC Meeting.

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

The next scheduled meeting of the PCC/RTC is September 11, 2007.

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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

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

Dave Johnson
Carol Thomas
Curt Noe
Lee Whitmore
Edward Williams
(not represented)
(not represented)
Tom Shaffer
Jim McQuilkin
John Boyle
Lorraine Brill
Jessica Lucas
Matthew Lawson
Leo Bagley
Brian Cuccia
(not represented)
(not represented)
Jerry Lutin
(not represented)
Jim Mosca
(not represented)
Deborah Schaaf
Chivas Grannum
Kenneth Lomax
Kathleen Zubrzycki

Representative

Glenn Reibman
Kelvin MacKavanagh
(not represented)
Matthew Smoker
(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)
(not represented)

ATTENDANCE (cont'd)

Other Member Representatives and Guests

Megan Lynch – SEPTA
Darin Gatti – City of Philadelphia, Streets Department
Warren Strumpford – RCC
Joshua Rocks – SJTPO
Alex Flemming – Delaware County
Derek Billnitzer – Delaware County
Andrew Levecchia – Camden County Improvement Authority
Matthew Anderson – Chester County Planning Commission
Jeanette Mar – FHWA NJ Division
Henry Droughter – FHWA PA Division

DVRPC Staff

Donald Shanis
Charles Dougherty
Richard Bickel
Elizabeth Schoonmaker
Richard Murphy
Matthew West
Michael Becker
Charles McGee