

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
PLANNING COORDINATING COMMITTEE/
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
June 10, 2008 Meeting Highlights
DVRPC Conference Room, Philadelphia, PA

1. Call to Order - Chairman's Comments

Matthew Lawson (Mercer County) welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

2. Deputy Executive Director's Report

Don Shanis (DVRPC) updated the members on the May 22, 2008 Board meeting, and stated that the Board passed all Actions recommended by the RTC. Dr. Shanis presented Peter Quinn with a gift of appreciation for his service to the RTC and congratulated him on his retirement.

3. Report on Regional Citizens Committee Activities

John Boyle (RCC) provided information on the RCC meeting held on May 14, 2008. Mr. Boyle stated that the RCC did not approve the PA 309/PA 63 Connector Project – Phase I. Mr. Boyle also reported that the Long-Range Task Force is interested in learning more about wind power. (Please refer to the May 14, 2008 Meeting Minutes of the DVRPC RCC for specific details.)

ACTION ITEMS

4. Highlights of the Meeting of May 6, 2008

The highlights from the May 6, 2008 meeting of the PCC/RTC were presented for adoption.

Motion: by Brian Cuccia, seconded by Catherine Popp-McDonough to adopt the highlights for the May 6, 2008 PCC/RTC meeting.

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

5. DVRPC Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Actions

Elizabeth Schoonmaker (DVPRC) presented two TIP amendments for consideration.

a. NJ08-07a: Jacksonville-Jobstown Road, Bridge over branch of the Assicunk Creek (MPMS #D0805), Burlington County – Graduate from Study & Development

DVRPC has requested to amend the FY2008-2011 TIP for New Jersey by adding Jacksonville-Jobstown Road Bridge over branch of the Assicunk Creek (DB #D0805) to the FY2008 TIP and programming \$1.065 million for final design and construction. Financial constraint of the FY2008 program will be demonstrated by shifting available funding from the Local Scoping Line Item (DB# X80B), and the Van Dyke Road and Greenwood Avenue Bridges over Trenton Branch (DB# 99315), as this project is not ready to advance to construction this fiscal year and is fully funded for construction in the FY2009 TIP.

During the 2005 Bridge Re-evaluation surveys, this bridge was identified as structurally deficient. The bridge is in need of deck replacement and superstructure rehabilitation. The scoping phase of this project has been completed locally and the project is now ready to advance to final design. Construction is already fully programmed in the FY2009 TIP for NJ.

Final design will be programmed in FY08 (\$215,000 STP-STU), and construction will be programmed in FY10 (\$850,000 STP-STU).

b. NJ08-07B: Bispham Street Bridge over Rancocas Creek (MPMS #D0806), Burlington County – Graduate from Study & Development

DVRPC has requested to amend the FY2008-2011 TIP for New Jersey by adding Bispham Street Bridge over Rancocas Creek (DB# D0805) to the FY2008 TIP and programming \$940,000 for final design and construction. To demonstrate constraint of the FY2008 TIP, funds will be shifted from available funding from the Local Scoping Line Item (DB# X80B), Future Projects Line Item (DB #D026), Gloucester County Resurfacing (DB #9806), and the Van Dyke Road and Greenwood Avenue Bridges over Trenton Branch (DB# 99315), as this project is not ready to advance to construction. The Bispham Street Bridge project is already fully programmed for construction in the FY2009 TIP.

During the 2005 Bridge Re-evaluation surveys, this bridge was identified as structurally deficient. The bridge is in need of deck replacement and superstructure rehabilitation. The scoping phase of this project has been completed locally and the project is now ready to advance to final design.

Final design will be programmed in FY08 (\$140,000 STP-STU), and construction will be programmed in FY10 (\$800,000 STP-STU).

Motion: by Brian Cuccia, seconded by Matthew Lawson to amend the FY2008-2011 TIP for New Jersey by adding Jacksonville-Jobstown Road Bridge over branch of the Assicunk Creek (DB #D0805) to the FY2008 TIP and programming \$1.065 million for final design and construction; and to amend the FY2008-2011 TIP for New Jersey by adding Bispham Street Bridge over Rancocas Creek (DB# D0805) to the FY2008 TIP and programming \$940,000 for final design and construction.

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

c. PA07-100: I-95 Design Review Manager (MPMS #46959), Philadelphia – Expand Scope

This Action Item has been removed from the Agenda.

6. Fiscal Year 2009 Planning Work Program Amendment

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/Bus Conflict Area Study

Joseph Hacker (DVRPC) asked the RTC to modify the Fiscal Year 2009 Work Program to add the Bicycle/Bus Conflict Area Study. This project involves DVRPC staff cooperating with staff from SEPTA, the Philadelphia Streets Department, the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia, the University City District, and others, in order to explore improvements that might improve safety at locations where curbside bus stop locations conflict with bicycle lanes in the City of Philadelphia, requiring buses to cross bicycle lanes in order to curb. Where conflicts occur, bicyclists may engage in improper passing while bus operators may fail to yield to bicyclists, resulting (anecdotally) in a number of collisions and near-collisions. This cooperative process resulted in a preliminary pavement marking design that would be tested along Walnut and/or Chestnut Streets in University City.

As this would be an experimental marking, using a symbol that does not appear in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), an application must be made to FHWA for approval of the experiment, along with supportive materials. This project will assist in designing the experimental program and assembling this application.

Motion: by John Boyle, seconded by Chivas Grannum to modify the Fiscal Year 2009 Work Program to add the Bicycle/Bus Conflict Area Study.

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

b. US 202 Section 100 Traffic Study, Supplement No. 3

W. Thomas Walker (DVRPC) asked the RTC to modify the Fiscal Year 2009 Work Program to add the US 202 Section 100 Traffic Study, Supplement No. 3. This project involves PennDOT continuing the process of developing traffic improvements for US 202 Section 100 from the Delaware State Line to the Matlack Street intersection, southeast of West Chester. This study is intended to continue the work of previous studies of this facility by testing new alternative roadway configurations that reduce the construction cost of the recommended improvements. Up to four different roadway improvement alternatives will be tested. The area of study would include this section of US 202 and selected crossing streets within impacted portions of Delaware and Chester counties.

A new traffic study is needed to prepare detailed traffic forecasts for the new, reduced cost alternatives being prepared by PennDOT and their consultants. Also, the 2026 forecasts previously prepared for this project are now out of date because they do not include the effect of current DVRPC 2035 board adopted population and employment forecasts and other proposed or recent developments in the corridor. This study will prepare 2035 forecasts for the required roadways and intersections in support of the US 202 Section 100 Project. These traffic forecasts must be consistent with the US 202 Land Use Study for Section 100 prepared by DVRPC staff in 2008. The cost of this traffic study may change depending on the number of smart transportation alternatives.

Motion: by Catherine Popp-McDonough, seconded by Thomas Shaffer to modify the Fiscal Year 2009 Work Program to add the Bicycle/Bus Conflict Area Study.

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

7. Destination 2030 Long-Range Plan Amendments

Michael Boyer (DVRPC) proposed two amendments to the set of transportation investments included in the Destination 2030 Long-Range Plan. The amendments are required to ensure consistency between the long-range plan and the Draft FY 2009-2012 TIP for New Jersey. The two proposed amendments are:

a. Addition of Route 70 (Route 38 to Marlton Circle) Operational Improvements and Widening

NJDOT recently completed a concept development study that recommended operational improvements at the failing intersections and widening the existing four-lane mainline sections (approximately 3.4 miles) along the facility to six lanes.

There was an extensive discussion that ensued focusing on the widening aspect of the amendment.

Motion: by Curt Noe, seconded by John Boyle to recommend that the Board amend the Long-Range Plan with the addition of Route 70 (Route 38 to Route 73) operational and safety improvements, with the possibility of widening certain sections, conditioned upon the completion of a Smart Transportation Study.

Motion passed. 17 votes were cast in favor of the motion. There was 1 abstention.

b. Addition of Route 322, Mullica Hill Bypass

This project involves construction of a bypass route on a new alignment around Mullica Hill in order to help relieve congestion through the village of Mullica Hill.

Motion: by Jeff Taylor, seconded by Carol Thomas to recommend that the Board amend the Destination 2030 Long-Range Plan with the addition of Route 322 and Mullica Hill Bypass.

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

8. Recommendation for Adoption of Conformity Determination of the FY 2009-2012 TIPs for New Jersey and Pennsylvania and the Destination 2030 Long Range Plan

DVRPC has demonstrated Transportation Conformity for the FY 2009 TIP updates for New Jersey and Pennsylvania and amended Destination 2030 Long Range Plan. Sean Greene (DVRPC) presented the results of the Transportation Conformity Determination and requested that the RTC recommend that the DVRPC Board adopt the findings at the June 2008 Board meeting.

Motion: by Pippa Woods, seconded by Richard Brahler to recommend that the Board adopt the findings of the Transportation Conformity Determination of the FY 2009-2012 TIPs for New Jersey and Pennsylvania and the Destination 2030 Long Range Plan.

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

9. Adoption of the DVRPC Fiscal Year 2009-2012 TIP for New Jersey and Pennsylvania

Federal law and planning regulations require the development of a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in order for the metropolitan region to be eligible to receive federal transportation funds. The creation of TIP is to be done by the MPO in cooperation with the state and transit operators, and must provide opportunity for input and comment by the public. Following the 30-day public comment period, Elizabeth Schoonmaker (DVRPC) presented an overview of the Draft TIP, comments, and recommended changes for the DVRPC FY 2009 TIP for New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Natasha Goguts (Chester County) made the following statement: "Chester County supports a TIP that accurately and appropriately reflects the regional prioritization of US 202 Section 300 reconstruction and widening. Work on Section 300 has been underway for over a decade. It is not a new project and has been on the TIP since 1999. When the project was deferred on the FY07 TIP, there was an understanding that programming for the project would be restored in the FY09 update. The Regional priority is also reflected in the numerous TIP comments received from business leaders, municipalities, organizations, residents, and the general public.

This Region has already made significant investments in US 202 Section 300. We have invested over \$70 million in design, construction, and CMP commitments. The Region continues to support the CMP commitments, which include additional buses and R5 trains that have been operating since the construction of Section 400. Delaying the project will only increase the financial burden for the Region. A two year delay will require an additional \$2.6 million to continue CMP commitments, \$2.4 million for the proposed overlay this Summer, and further funding for to maintain PennDOT's contractors for design and management. With inflation and the increasing cost of construction materials, the cost in FY11 will be well above current estimates.

US 202 Section 300 is currently under construction and this is not the time for further delays. Based on status meetings that planning partners have attended, the final design plans for Section 320 can be substantially complete by December of this year. Permit applications are complete and being held. These permits are part of the critical path for the project's schedule, but have not been submitted to resource agencies for review and approval. Section 300 is well underway and ready for the continuation of the construction phase.

Chester County requests that Section 300 be added to the list of Recommended Changes to the Draft FY09 TIP. Chester County supports a TIP that reflects the regional prioritization of Section 300."

In response Chuck Davies (PennDOT) stated: "PennDOT considers the reconstruction of Route 202 Section 300 with additional capacity to be one of the most important transportation projects underway in the metropolitan region. There are a number of individual sections that have been advancing in the construction phase since 2005.

The installation of an intelligent traffic monitoring system is now completed and will be used to control traffic and congestion in the subsequent construction projects on the

corridor and afterwards. Two contracts to lengthen overhead bridges are now under construction. The overhead bridges will be completed early in 2010. The schedule of the mainline widening construction sections is now driven by the right of way acquisitions and the securing of the amendments to the environmental permits issued for this corridor.

District 6 is committed to do everything to keep the project on schedule and take any opportunities to advance the project delivery. Nevertheless a realistic schedule based on experience with these critical path items that also allocates resources to allow for the delivery of all other major commitments is best for all concerned. The project team will regularly report its status to stakeholders and be available for questioning as requested.

Motion: by Leo Bagley, seconded by Brian Cuccia to recommend that the Board adopt the DVRPC Fiscal Year 2009-2012 TIP for New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Motion passed. 17 votes were cast in favor of the motion. 1 vote was cast in opposition of the motion.

10. Election of Fiscal Year 2009 Officers

The PCC/RTC nominating committee presented a slate of candidates for FY2009. The candidates nominated were James Mosca (PennDOT) for the position of PCC / RTC Chairperson and Jessica Savidge-Lucas (Gloucester) for the position of Vice Chairperson.

Motion: by Catherine Popp-McDonough, seconded by Lorraine Brill to elect James Mosca to the position of PCC/RTC Chairperson, and Jessica Savidge-Lucas to the position of Vice Chairperson.

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

11. Annual Self-Certification of the Regional Transportation Planning Process

Federal regulations require that the Metropolitan Planning Organization self-certify that the Regional Transportation Planning Process is carried out in conformance with applicable federal regulations. Dr. Shanis (DVRPC) presented his recommendation for Board adoption.

Motion: by Leo Bagley, seconded by Pippa Woods to recommend Board adoption of the annual self-certification of the Regional Transportation Planning Process.

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

PRESENTATION ITEMS

12. Access to the Region's Core (ARC): Moving Forward

It has been almost one-hundred years since the last rail tunnel was constructed under the Hudson River, and NJ TRANSIT and the PANY & NJ are currently completing the environmental work and the preliminary engineering for the ARC project. When completed, ARC will double rail capacity from 23 to 48 trains per hour, providing more than 125,000 new passenger trips daily. Alan M. Weinberg (NJTRANSIT) presented a brief update on the progress of the ARC project.

13. 2005 to 2035 Zonal Demographic and Employment Forecasts for Modeling

This presentation has been postponed until a later date.

INFORMATION ITEMS

14. One Minute Reports

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

15. Old Business and New Business

16. Meeting Adjournment

Motion: *by Pippa Woods, 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 July 8, 2008.

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

Richard Brahler
 Carol Thomas
 Curt Noe
 Natasha Goguts
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 Thomas Shaffer
 Linda Hayes
 John Boyle
 Lorraine Brill
 Jeff Taylor
 Matthew Lawson
 Leo Bagley
 Brian Cuccia
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 Pippa Woods
 (not represented)
 Jim Mosca
 (not represented)
 Anthony Santaniello
 Chivas Grannum
 Kenneth Lomax
 Catherine Popp-McDonough

Representative

Glenn Reibman
 (not represented)
 (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)
 Martin Kotsch

ATTENDANCE (cont'd)

Other Member Representatives and Guests

Steve Buckley – City of Philadelphia
Chuck Davies – PennDOT District 6-0
Alex Flemming – SEPTA
Darin Gatti – Philadelphia Department of Streets
Cara Lampton – Clean Air Council
Charles Romick – Gloucester County
Thomas Schulze – NJTRANSIT
Stephen Singer – CCD
Warren Strumpfer - RCC
Alan Weinberg – NJTRANSIT
Kathleen Zubrzycki – SEPTA

DVRPC Staff

Gastonia Anderson
Michael Boyer
Charles Dougherty
Matthew Gates
Sean Greene
Joseph Hacker
Richard Murphy
Elizabeth Schoonmaker
Donald Shanis
W. Thomas Walker
John Ward
Matthew West