

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
PLANNING COORDINATING COMMITTEE/
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
April 10, 2012 Meeting Highlights
DVRPC Conference Room, Philadelphia, PA

1. Call to Order - Chairperson's Comments

Carol Thomas (Chairperson – Burlington County) welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

2. Deputy Executive Director's Report

Don Shanis (DVRPC), updated the members on the March 22, 2012 Board meeting. He also announced his impending retirement, due at the end of July 2012.

ACTION ITEMS

3. Highlights of the Meeting of March 6, 2012

The highlights from the March 6, 2012 meeting of the PCC/RTC were presented for adoption.

Motion: by Linda Guarini, seconded by Thomas Shaffer to adopt the highlights for the March 6, 2012 PCC/RTC meeting.

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

4. DVRPC Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Actions

Rick Murphy (DVRPC) presented eight TIP amendments for consideration.

a. PA11-67: Approval of Automated Red-Light Enforcement (ARLE) Round 2 Projects (Various MPMS#'s), Various Counties - Proposed New Projects

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC approve the list of projects selected as part of PennDOT's Automated Red-Light Enforcement (ARLE) Round 2 program and amend the FY2011-2014 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding the projects to the PA TIP in FY12. The DVRPC region was awarded a total of \$1,851,030 of State Appropriation 244 funding. \$1,500,000 is for projects in the City of Philadelphia, \$205,000 is for a project in Delaware County, and \$146,030 is for a project in Chester County.

Motion: by Michelle Webb, seconded by Linda Guarini to recommend the Board approve the list of projects selected as part of PennDOT's Automated

Red-Light Enforcement (ARLE) Round 2 program and amend the FY2011-2014 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding the projects to the PA TIP in FY12.

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

b. NJ12-12: Route 206, North of Arreton Road to North of Brown Avenue, Pavement (DB # 11308), Mercer County - Project Deletion

NJDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2012-2015 TIP for New Jersey by deleting Route 206, North of Arreton Road to North of Brown Avenue, Pavement (DB# 11308) from the DVRPC TIP. The work within the DVRPC region has been completed and the current project inadvertently cites the entire project within the DVRPC region. The limits of the project have changed from Mile Post 56.7 – Mile Post 68.5 to Mile Post 60.0 – Mile Post 66.4. The project will be transferred to NJTPA. Funding has not been removed from the DVRPC region, but included in the region's fiscal constraint banks to address project shifts. The title of the project has also changed to 'Rt 206 North of Wood Thrush Lane to North of Brown Ave, Pavement.' The funding that was programmed in FY14 for the DVRPC region will not leave the region.

c. NJ12-13: Rail-Highway Grade Crossing Program, Federal (DB# X35A1), Statewide - Cost Increase

NJ DOT has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2012-2015 TIP for New Jersey by increasing funding for the Rail-Highway Crossing (RHC) Program, Federal project (DB# X35A1), by \$9,000,000 RHC funds from FY13-FY21, by adding \$1,000,000 to the engineering and construction phase of DVRPC's portion each year from FY13-FY21.

NJ DOT has increased their long-term focus on rail crossing safety resulting from the *Rail Safety Short-Term Action Plan*.

Motion: by Matt Lawson , seconded by Thomas Wospil to recommend the Board amend the FY2012-2015 TIP for New Jersey by deleting Route 206, North of Arreton Road to North of Brown Avenue, Pavement (DB# 11308) from the DVRPC TIP; and modify the FY2012-2015 TIP for New Jersey by increasing funding for the Rail-Highway Crossing (RHC) Program, Federal project (DB# X35A1), by \$9,000,000 RHC funds from FY13-FY21, by adding \$1,000,000 to the engineering and construction phase of DVRPC's portion each year from FY13-FY21.

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

d. NJ12-14: County Route 528 Roundabout (DB# TBD), Burlington County Add Proposed New Project

Burlington County has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2012-2015 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new project to the TIP, County Route 528 Roundabout (DB# D1204), and programming construction in FY13 (\$1,000,000 HSIP).

Motion: by Jessica Savidge-Lucas, seconded by Andrew Levecchia to recommend the Board amend the FY2012-2015 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new project to the TIP, County Route 528 Roundabout (DB# D1204), and programming construction in FY13 (\$1,000,000 HSIP).

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

e. NJ12-15: Resurfacing and Striping of CR 610 Clayton-Williamstown Road (DB# TBD), Gloucester County - Add Proposed New Project

Gloucester County has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2012-2015 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new project to the TIP, Resurfacing and Striping of CR 610/Clayton-Williamstown Road (DB# D1205), and programming construction in FY12 (\$750,000 STP-STU). Funds will be made available by other projects that have schedules that have slipped to next year or later, and additional obligation authority made available to DVRPC by NJDOT.

f. NJ12-16: Resurfacing of CR 603 Center Street (DB# TBD), Gloucester County - Add Proposed New Project

Gloucester County has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2012-2015 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new project to the TIP, Resurfacing of CR 603 Center Street (DB# D1202), and programming construction in FY12 (\$700,000 STP-STU). Funds will be made available by other projects that have schedules that have slipped to next year or later, and additional obligation authority made available to DVRPC by NJDOT.

g. NJ12-17: Gloucester County Multi-Purpose Trail Extension (DB# TBD), Gloucester County - Add Proposed New Project

Gloucester County has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2012-2015 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new project to the TIP, Gloucester County Multi-Purpose Trail Extension (DB# D1203), and programming Final Design in FY12 (\$400,000 STP-STU), Right-of-Way in FY15 (\$750,000 STP-STU), and Construction in FY16 (\$1,500,000 STP-STU). Funds will be made available by other projects that have schedules that have slipped to next year or later, and additional obligation authority made available to DVRPC by NJDOT.

Motion: by Matthew Lawson, seconded by Andrew Levecchia to recommend the Board amend the FY2012-2015 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new project to the TIP, Resurfacing and Striping of CR 610/Clayton-Williamstown

Road (DB# D1205), and programming construction in FY12 (\$750,000 STP-STU); amend the FY2012-2015 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new project to the TIP, Resurfacing of CR 603 Center Street (DB# D1202), and programming construction in FY12 (\$700,000 STP-STU); and amend the FY2012-2015 TIP for New Jersey by adding a new project to the TIP, Gloucester County Multi-Purpose Trail Extension (DB# D1203), and programming Final Design in FY12 (\$400,000 STP-STU), Right-of-Way in FY15(\$750,000 STP-STU), and Construction in FY16 (\$1,500,000 STP-STU).

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

5. **Authorization to Open a 30 Day Public Comment Period for the Draft FY 2013 Pennsylvania Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Connections Long-Range Plan Amendment, and Conformity Determination for the FY 2012 New Jersey TIP, FY 2013 Pennsylvania TIP and Connections Long-Range**

Federal law and planning regulations require the development of a metropolitan long-range transportation plan (Plan) and a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in order for the metropolitan region to be eligible to receive federal transportation funds. The final conformity rule promulgated by US EPA (40 CFR 51 and 93) requires that the Plan or TIP must not cause new air quality violations, worsen existing violations, or delay timely attainment of federal standards, and that Transportation Plans and Programs conform to the applicable State Implementation Plans (SIP) for air quality. A 30-day comment period must be conducted prior to a formal action to amend the plan, and to adopt the TIP and conformity determination.

Micheal Boyer (DVRPC) asked the RTC to recommend that the Board open a 30-day public comment period with proper public notification on a proposed amendment to the *Connections* Plan, the draft FY2013 TIP for Pennsylvania, and draft conformity finding for the Plan and TIPs, and to publish documents, post them on the Internet, make copies available at certain public libraries, and hold public meetings.

Motion: by Andrew Levecchia, seconded by James Mosca, to recommend the Board open a 30-day public comment period with proper public notification on a proposed amendment to the Connections Plan, the draft FY2013 TIP for Pennsylvania, and draft conformity finding for the Plan and TIPs, and to publish documents, post them on the Internet, make copies available at certain public libraries, and hold public meetings.

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

6. Fiscal Year 2012 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. I-95 Interchange Enhancement Traffic Study, Phase III, Supplement 1

In 2011, traffic forecasts of several I-95I closure strategies were prepared and are now being screened to determine which warrant further evaluation and refinement in terms of construction staging, time-of-day lane closures, and mitigation measures along alternative routes. That process has identified new alternatives to test and other additional tasks for DVRPC that are necessary to complete the screening process. Matt Gates (DVRPC) asked that the RTC recommend the Board amend the DVRPC FY12 Planning Work Program to include this project.

Motion: by Andrew Levecchia, seconded by Matt Lawson, to recommend the Board amend the DVRPC FY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program to include the I-95 Interchange Enhancement Traffic Study, Phase III, Supplement 1.

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

b. US 202 Section 600 Traffic Forecast Updates

This project will update traffic forecasts for US 202 Section 600 under No-Build and Build alternatives. The Build Alternative will include a 5-lane cross section between Swede and Welsh Rds and a 4-lane section from Johnson Hwy to Swede Rd, along with intersection improvements. Forecasts will be made for 2020 and 2035 for US 202, parallel and intersecting facilities, and selected offline intersections. Matt Gates (DVRPC) asked that the RTC recommend the Board amend the DVRPC FY13 Planning Work Program to include this project.

Motion: by Matthew Edmond, seconded by James Mosca, to recommend the Board amend the DVRPC FY 2013 Unified Planning Work Program to include the US 202 Section 600 Traffic Forecast Updates.

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

c. Creating a Brand and Visual Identity for the Regional Trails Network - i.e., "The Circuit"

Currently, with support from the William Penn Foundation, DVRPC is administering the Regional Trails Program to close priority gaps and complete key segments in Greater Philadelphia's trail network. The program provides funding and technical assistance in support of trail planning, design and construction and is working to

build capacity among regional partners. The three-year program is now in its second year.

As part of the program, the Foundation, DVRPC and other partners hosted a contest to “name” the region’s trail network. *The Circuit* was chosen as the network’s name from among 170 submissions in January 2012. For this project, DVRPC will manage the efforts of Maskar Design, who have been advising the Foundation on establishing *The Circuit* as a “brand” across the Greater Philadelphia region. Work will include a creative phase, with development of a visual identity that builds upon existing trail identities in the region, and a product development phase, with preparation of initial publicity products bearing the brand and logo. The work will be guided by input from DVRPC and other regional trail network stakeholders. Chris Linn (DVRPC) asked that the RTC recommend the Board amend the DVRPC FY12 Planning Work Program to include this project.

Motion: by Thomas Shaffer, seconded by Stephen Buckley, to recommend the Board amend the DVRPC FY 2012 Planning Work Program to include Creating a Brand and Visual Identity; The Circuit, for the Regional Trails Network.

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

7. Approval of the Revised List of Recommended Projects and TIP Commitment for the Pennsylvania FY 2013 Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) Grant Program

Joseph Hacker (DVRPC) presented the revised list of recommended projects for the Pennsylvania FY13 JARC program, and asked that the RTC recommend Board approval.

Motion: by Matthew Edmond, seconded by Natasha Manbeck, to recommend the Board approves the revised list of projects for the Pennsylvania FY13 JARC program.

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

8. DVRPC Regional Trails Grant Program: Phase II Projects

A list of trail planning and feasibility studies was selected for funding from Phase II of the DVRPC Regional Trails Grant Program. Chris Linn (DVRPC) presented an overview of the projects, and asked the PCC/RTC to recommend Board approval.

A lengthy discussion was had amongst committee members regarding project coordination/selection process, as well as safety concerns with using active rail right-of-ways for trail projects.

Motion: by Natasha Manbeck, seconded by Stephen Buckley, to recommend the Board approve the recommended projects for Phase II of the Regional Trails Grant Program assuming additional coordination with the counties and transit operators and resolution of resulting issues.

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

9. Adoption of the Revised Draft DVRPC Public Participation Plan: A Strategy For Citizen Involvement

Each Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is mandated through federal legislation to have a Public Participation Plan. DVRPC's Plan serves as our strategy for public involvement and has been updated regularly throughout the years with the last Plan adoption in 2008. The draft Plan that was reviewed had some minor changes that were made as the result of suggestions received during a 45-day public comment period that extended from January 30 to March 14, 2012. Jane Meconi (DVRPC) asked the RTC to recommend that the Board adopt the revised draft DVRPC Public Participation Plan.

Sue Herman, President of Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc., and Jim Richardson (citizen) provided public comments and requested that their prepared statements be included in the RTC highlights (please see attached).

Motion: by Andrew Levecchia, seconded by Jessica Savidge-Lucas, to recommend the Board adopt the revised Draft DVRPC Public Participation Plan: A Strategy for Citizen Involvement.

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

PRESENTATION ITEMS

10. Regional Transit Planning Program: FY2012 Update and Call for FY2013 Projects

Greg Krykewycz (DVRPC) updated the RTC on ongoing FY2012 transit projects, including progress on the Norristown Transportation Center Intermodal Study and Concept Plan. This program update, in lieu of an RTAC meeting, included a call for project submissions to fill out the FY2013 program slate.

11. Overview of the DVRPC Report Ready to Roll?

Presentation postponed to a later date.

INFORMATION ITEMS

12. One Minute Reports

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

13. Old Business and New Business

14. Meeting Adjournment

Motion: by Matthew Lawson, seconded by Andrew Levecchia to adjourn PCC/RTC Meeting.

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

The next scheduled meeting of the PCC/RTC is Tuesday, May 8, 2012.

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
 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
 City of Philadelphia – City Planning Commission
 City of Philadelphia – Department of Streets
 City of Philadelphia – Mayor's Office of Transportation
 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
 Transportation Operations 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
 Andrew Levecchia
 Natasha Manbeck
 Ed Williams
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 Thomas Shaffer
 (not represented)
 Jessica Savidge-Lucas
 Matthew Lawson
 Matt Edmond
 Thomas A. Wospil
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 Lou Millan
 Patrick Patterson
 James Mosca
 Linda Guarini
 Anthony Santaniello
 Michelle Webb
 Stephen Buckey
 Zoe Robertson

Representative

Glenn F. Reibman
 Kelvin MacKavanagh
 Sandra Brillhart
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 William Ragozine
 (not represented)
 Rob Henry
 Don Steele
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 (not represented)
 Martin Kotsch

ATTENDANCE (cont'd)

Other Member Representatives and Guests

Sue Herman – Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc.
Ray Green – PennDOT Central Office
Tim Phelps – TMACC
Caroline Trueman - Federal Highway Administration - NJ Division
Byron Comati - SEPTA
Patricia Ellis - City of Philadelphia – Mayor’s Office of Transportation
Jim Richardson – Citizen
Andrew Clark – NJ DOT

DVRPC Staff

Charles Dougherty
Matthew West
Joseph Hacker
Rick Murphy
Rich Bickel
Erin McCann
Jean McKinney
Shawn Megill-Legendre
Jane Meconi
Laurie Matkowski
Chris Linn
Matt Gates
Zoe Neaderland
Mike Boyer
Greg Krykewycz
Rob Graff
Candy Snyder
Don Shanis
Chris Pollard
Mary Bell

DVRPC fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. DVRPC’s website may be translated into Spanish, Russian, and Traditional Chinese online by visiting www.dvrpc.org. Publications and other public documents can be made available in alternative languages or formats, if requested. For more information, please call (215) 238-2871.

R.R.T.S.
Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc.
PO Box 285
Newtown, PA 18940
RRTSbuckspsa5@aol.com

Mr. Barry Seymour, Executive Director
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
190 N. Independence Mall West, 8th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Regional Transportation Committee Members
c/o Ms. Carol Ann Thomas, Chairperson
190 N. Independence Mall west, 8th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106

DVRPC Board Members
c/o Mr. Louis Cappelli
190 N. Independence Mall West, 8th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106

April 10, 2012

Dear Mr. Seymour, Regional Transportation Committee Members, and DVRPC Board Members,

I am Sue Herman, President of Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc.. When we went on line and viewed the posting of our March 12, 2012 WRITTEN COMMENT SUBMISSION regarding the Draft January 2012 DVRPC Public Participation Plan: A Strategy for Citizen Involvement, we were dismayed to see two (2) stamps on our comments that read "RECEIVED MAR 16 2012 DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION". Exhibit I is the stamped page that can be found on the DVRPC's website. This is an error – which misrepresents that our comments were received after the March 14, 2012 deadline for comment submission. We request that this be rectified immediately.

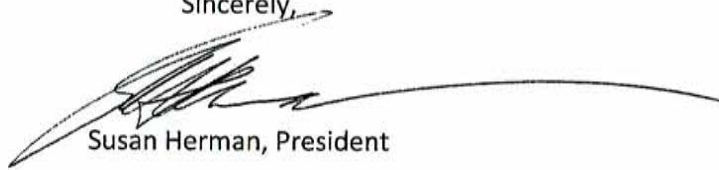
Exhibit II is our March 12, 2012 email submission of comments to Ms. Candace Snyder, Director of DVRPC Office of Public Affairs and Communications. In addition, a hard copy of R.R.T.S.'s comments was received at DVRPC offices via Federal Express on March 13, 2012. Exhibit III is a March 13, 2012 email to me from Ms. Jane Meconi, Public Involvement Manager, that states, "Please consider this email confirmation that DVRPC has received, by email and mail, RRTS's comments regarding the draft *Public Participation Plan: A Strategy for Involvement.*"

We respectfully request that the Regional Transportation Committee and the DVRPC Board pass a motion requiring that the "MARCH 16 2012" receipt date stamp be removed from our WRITTEN

Pg 1 of 8

COMMENT SUBMISSION that appears on line and from other copies of our comments that are in your offices. We also ask that you issue a formal correction to anyone who you have sent or copied on the misdated document. Lastly, we ask that you make mention of the mistake and correction in the minutes of the April RTC and DVRPC Board meetings.

Sincerely,



Susan Herman, President

CC: Brigid Hynes-Cherin; Regional Administrator, Federal Transit Administration Region III

Ernest Blais; Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration N.J. Division

Renee Sigel; Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration PA Division

Tony Cho; Community Planner, U.S. Dept. of Transportation, FTA, Region III

Jim Mosca, PennDOT

David Kuhn, NJDOT

R.R.T.S. Membership (mass e-mail)

Page 578

Exhibit I

RECEIVED

MAR 16 2012

DELAWARE VALLEY
REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION

R.R.T.S.
Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc.
PO Box 285
Newtown, PA 18940
RRTSbuckspsa@aol.com

DELAWARE VALLEY
REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION

MAR 16 2012

RECEIVED

Candace Snyder; Director, DVRPC Office of Public Affairs and Communications

190 N. Independence Mall West, 8th Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19106

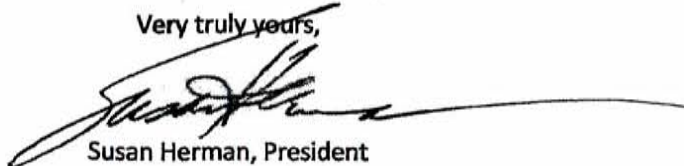
March 12, 2012

Dear Ms. Snyder,

Attached please find our WRITTEN COMMENT SUBMISSION regarding the DVRPC's January 2012 Draft Public Participation Plan: A Strategy for Citizen Involvement, which we have submitted to you via email on March 12, 2012. Please confirm that you received this email.

You will also receive a copy of this WRITTEN COMMENT SUBMISSION at your offices on Tuesday, March 13, 2012, via Federal Express. Please note that our WRITTEN COMMENT SUBMISSION dated March 12, 2012 contains three (3) pages, including this cover letter. One (1) of the three (3) pages is an Exhibit titled **Printed Version of Public Comments Made at the December 1, 2011 DVRPC Board Meeting**.

Very truly yours,



Susan Herman, President

CC: Brigid Hynes-Cherin; Regional Administrator, Federal Transit Administration Region III

Ernest Blais; Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration N.J. Division

Renee Sigel; Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration PA Division

Tony Cho; Community Planner, U.S. Dept. of Transportation, FTA, Region III

Jim Mosca, PennDOT

David Kuhn, NJDOT

Barry Seymour; Executive Director, DVRPC

R.R.T.S. Membership (mass e-mail)

Ag. 348

*Exhibit II
(pg. 1 of 4)*

From: rrtsbuckspa5 <rrtsbuckspa5@aol.com>
To: suherman54 <suherman54@gmail.com>

Subject: Fwd: MyFax Delivery COMMENTS:1/2012 Draft PPP

Date: Wed, Mar 14, 2012 12:08 pm

Attachments: NA_120312_490674583.pdf (57K)

-----Original Message-----

From: suherman54 <suherman54@aol.com>
To: public_affairs <public_affairs@dvrpc.org>
Cc: suherman54 <suherman54@aol.com>; rrtsbuckspa5 <rrtsbuckspa5@aol.com>
Sent: Mon, Mar 12, 2012 4:39 pm
Subject: Fwd: MyFax Delivery COMMENTS:1/2012 Draft PPP

Dear Ms. Candace Snyder,

Attached please find a WRITTEN COMMENT SUBMISSION from Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc. regarding the **January 2012 DVRPC Draft Public Participation Plan**. It is a three (3) page document, including the cover letter.

You will also receive a copy of this WRITTEN COMMENT SUBMISSION at your office tomorrow via Federal Express.

Please confirm that you got this email and that the three-page document was downloaded and is legible

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Susan Herman
President, Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc.

-----Original Message-----

From: MyFax <NoReply@MyFax.com>
To: suherman54 <suherman54@aol.com>
Sent: Mon, Mar 12, 2012 3:58 pm
Subject: MyFax Delivery from NA



[Report this as Junk](#) [MyFax Support](#)

You have received a fax!

Fax Received at: 03/12/2012 15:57:04 GMT -5
Receiving Fax Number: (866) 482-8955
of Pages: 3
Sending Fax: NA
Caller Id: 7272896037

Please note that the image shown below is only the first page of the attached fax. To view your fax, open the attachme

Pg. 4 of 8

Ex. II
(pg. 2 of 4)

R.R.T.S.

Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc.

PO Box 285

Newtown, PA 18940

RRTSbucksps5@aol.com

Candace Snyder; Director, DVRPC Office of Public Affairs and Communications

190 N. Independence Mall West, 8th Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19106

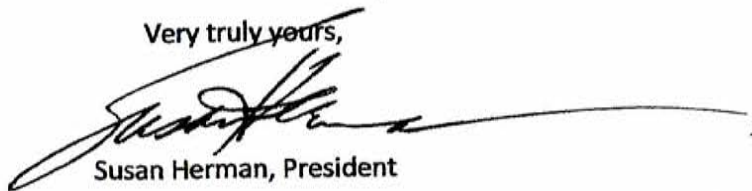
March 12, 2012

Dear Ms. Snyder,

Attached please find our WRITTEN COMMENT SUBMISSION regarding the DVRPC's January 2012 Draft Public Participation Plan: A Strategy for Citizen Involvement, which we have submitted to you via email on March 12, 2012. Please confirm that you received this email.

You will also receive a copy of this WRITTEN COMMENT SUBMISSION at your offices on Tuesday, March 13, 2012, via Federal Express. Please note that our WRITTEN COMMENT SUBMISSION dated March 12, 2012 contains three (3) pages, including this cover letter. One (1) of the three (3) pages is an Exhibit titled **Printed Version of Public Comments Made at the December 1, 2011 DVRPC Board Meeting.**

Very truly yours,



Susan Herman, President

CC: Brigid Hynes-Cherin; Regional Administrator, Federal Transit Administration Region III

Ernest Blais; Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration N.J. Division

Renee Sigel; Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration PA Division

Tony Cho; Community Planner, U.S. Dept. of Transportation, FTA, Region III

Jim Mosca, PennDOT

David Kuhn, NJDOT

Barry Seymour; Executive Director, DVRPC

R.R.T.S. Membership (mass e-mail)

Pg. 548

Ex. II
(pg. 3 of 4)

Draft January 2012 DVRPC Public Participation Plan: A Strategy for Citizen Involvement

WRITTEN COMMENT SUBMISSION: March 12, 2012 #Pages, including cover letter: 3

of Exhibits: 1

The elimination of the Regional Citizens Committee and the proposed **January 2012 Draft Public Participation Plan**, effectively shuts out the meaningful voices of members of the Public who (a) were interested in becoming educated in our regional planning process and (b) did the hard work of participating objectively in the process to effect meaningful change. The **January 2012 Draft Public Participation Plan** will not result in true education of and meaningful interchange with the Public - even though it professes to do so - as the future Public Participation Task Force is not comprised of independent members of the Public.

As stated in our Public Comments at the December 1, 2011 DVRPC Board meeting (see Exhibit I), we ask that you reinstate and incorporate the previous Regional Citizens Committee in its entirety in any new or revised Public Participation Plan. The previous Regional Citizens Committee was comprised of free citizens who had a free opportunity to participate in the process, rather than being hand-selected, hand-picked people.

Pg. 6 of 8

EX. II
(pg. 4 of 4)

R.R.T.S. WRITTEN COMMENT SUBMISSION (continued)

EXHIBIT I

PRINTED VERSION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS MADE AT THE DECEMBER 1, 2011 DVRPC BOARD MEETING

Good morning. I am Susan Herman, President of Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc. . We represent in excess of 9,000 residents who reside in five (5) municipalities [Wrightstown and Lower Makefield, Upper Makefield, Newtown, and Northampton Townships].

We are outraged that the DVRPC has disbanded the Regional Citizens Committee as we have known it. It was the one (1) apolitical group in the very complex and politically-influenced DVRPC Metropolitan Planning Organization system. It was a group of talented and motivated citizens who were passionate about the well-being of all aspects of our region. The Regional Citizens Committee kept growing in leaps and bounds and its meetings were rich due to the energy and idea generation and brain-storming skills of its members.

Your elimination of the Regional Citizens Committee as we have known it, has silenced the objective voice of the General Public. The group that you are replacing it with, known as the Public Participation Task Force, DOES NOT provide an equivalent opportunity for objective public input and meaningful discourse between the Public and DVRPC Staff. The members of the Public Participation Task Force will be hand-selected by governmental bodies and DVRPC Staff. With this selection process, it is inevitable that the Public Participation Task Force will become politicized.

We implore you to find a way to restore the previous Regional Citizens Committee format. Anything short of this makes a farce of the Public Participation Process.

Pg. 748

Exhibit III



Susan Herman < suherman54@gmail.com >

confirmation

2 messages

Meconi, Jane < jmeconi@dvrpc.org >

Tue, Mar 13, 2012 at 5:36 PM

To: "Sue Herman (suherman54@gmail.com)" <suherman54@gmail.com>

Cc: "Snyder, Candy" <csnyder@dvrpc.org>

Please consider this email confirmation that DVRPC has received, by email and mail, RRTS's comments regarding the draft *Public Participation Plan: A Strategy for Involvement*.

Sincerely,

Jane M. Meconi, AICP

Public Involvement Manager

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

190 N. Independence Mall West, 8th Fl.

Philadelphia, PA 19106

p 215-238-2871 * f 215-592-9125

follow DVRPC on Twitter! www.twitter.com/DVRPC

Susan Herman < suherman54@gmail.com >

Wed, Mar 14, 2012 at 10:14 AM

To: "Meconi, Jane" <jmeconi@dvrpc.org>

Thank you, Jane.

Sue

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Sue Herman

19.848

Having been an active participant for several years on the former RCC and on a number of DVRPC committees, I want to express my strong agreement with the basics of the Draft Public Participation Plan. It represents a solid step forward in gaining wider and more productive involvement in regional planning for interested citizens. In the spirit of helping a good decision work well, I offer the following suggests/comments on the draft plan.

STIPULATIONS FOR APPOINTEES

While the Regional Citizens Committee had a number of drawbacks, a key, positive feature of this body was its independence from elected officials and paid state/county/city planners. This ensured representation of points of view not encumbered by political or job-related concerns.

In assembling the new Task Force, care should be taken to continue this independence. I therefore recommend that the following stipulation be placed on the selection of members appointed by the DVRPC Board counties and cities: **Appointees should not be elected officials or full-time employees of those governments nor members of such individuals' families.** Furthermore, **appointees should be briefed that consistent promotion of any single issue associated with direct personal economic or political gain for themselves is outside the spirit of the Task Force and will not be tolerated.**

NO VOTING ON TIP ACTIONS

Given that the Regional Transportation Committee and the Board of Directors have direct responsibility for reviewing and approving the PA and NJ Transportation Improvement Programs and associated amendments, the Task Force should **not** be chartered to do so. A strong shortcoming of the RCC was the effort on the part of ill-equipped individuals to second-guess policy, finance and engineering decisions at minute levels. This should not be a goal of the Task Force. Opportunities to comment on TIP actions are available to all citizens through online and other existing channels.

REPRESENTATION ON DVRPC COMMITTEES

The Task Force should have at least one representative on all significant DVRPC committees and subcommittees. The role of these representatives should be to bring Task Force-generated ideas to the committees and to report committee summaries back to Task Force members. I personally found my participation on RTC, CHSTP, Long Range Plan and Safety Task Force very useful opportunities to keep RCC abreast of committee activities and to express citizen concerns within those committees. It's a good tradition that should be maintained.

TASK FORCE ROLE

The Task Force should be thoroughly briefed on the roles and purposes for which DVRPC and its Board have constituted it. In my opinion, the primary goals should be 1) to act as an advisory body to the Board and to committees on citizen concerns and aspirations, and 2) to channel information about DVRPC activities, decisions and opportunities for public engagement back to their communities and organizations. The Task Force should be given ample opportunity to decide on and codify how they will act to achieve these goals, under supervision of DVRPC staff. In my opinion, the Executive Director should have regular, direct interaction with the Task Force in order to provide insight on DVRPC directions, help focus the Task Force on relevant issues, and be available for higher-level policy-related discussions.

TRAINING

Task Force members should be exposed to training in the Planning Work Program and by the Citizens Planning Institute. Firstly, this will help focus Task Force discussion on relevant regional issues in a productive and informed manner. Secondly, upgrading of individual skills through this type of training should be a perquisite of Task Force participation.

Thanks for the continuing opportunity to participate in public comment on important regional issues.

Regards,

Jim Richardson
Philadelphia, PA
215-545-1865
Jim663@comcast.net