



**DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
REGIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

May 7, 2013 Meeting Highlights

DVRPC Conference Room, Philadelphia, PA

1. Call to Order - Chairperson's Comments

Michelle Webb (Chairperson, City of Philadelphia Department of Streets) welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

2. Deputy Planning Director's Report

John Ward (DVRPC) began by announcing the Board approved all the Action Items recommended by the committee at the RTC meeting on April 9, 2013.

Mr. Ward announced that beginning in June 2013, the RTC will be determining meeting dates for the Fiscal Year, instead of Calendar Year.

Mr. Ward provided updates on several meetings.

Lastly, Mr. Ward announced the promotion of Laurie Matkowski to Manager, Office of Transportation Operations Management.

3. Public Comment on Any Agenda Item

Dennis Winter (Clean Air Council) stated that he would prefer to receive RTC meeting materials in a more timely manner.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Highlights of the Meeting of April 9, 2013

The highlights from April 9, 2013 meeting of the RTC were presented for adoption.

Motion: by Jim Mosca, seconded by Matthew Lawson to adopt the highlights for the April 9, 2013 RTC meeting.

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

5. DVRPC Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Actions

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

a. PA13-35: John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge Cyclist and Pedestrian Access Study, (MPMS# 97474), Various Counties – Add New Study to TIP

DVRPC, on behalf of the Clean Air Council, has requested that the FY2013 - 2016 TIP for Pennsylvania be amended by adding a new study project, John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge Cyclist and Pedestrian Access Study (MPMS# 97474), to the TIP in the amount of \$446,758 FTA Section 5320 in FY14.

On February 3, 2012, the Federal Transit Administration announced that the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) and its partner, the Clean Air Council (CAC), would be awarded \$446,758 from the Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in Parks program to support bicycle and pedestrian access planning in four distinct focus areas adjacent to the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (JHNWR).

The four focus areas are:

1. The 84th Street Crossing in Philadelphia, PA;
2. The SEPTA Eastwick Station Link in Philadelphia, PA;
3. The Pennsylvania Route 420 Crossing in Tinicum Township, Delaware County, PA; and
4. The abandoned Chester Short Line Trolley bed in Philadelphia, PA and Tinicum Township, Delaware County, PA.

DVRPC has partnered with the Clean Air Council on this project to serve as the public agency sponsor. The Clean Air Council will take the lead on retaining a design and engineering consultant to create a set of detailed design plans for bicycle and pedestrian connections to John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge. The project will build on work completed previously in the 2007 *John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum Pedestrian and Bicycle Access Study* and the 2007 *Cobbs Creek Connector Trail Feasibility Study*.

Motion: by Barbara Holcomb, seconded by Jessica Lucas, to recommend the Board amend the FY2013-2016 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new study project, John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge Cyclist and Pedestrian Access Study, to the TIP in the amount of \$446,758 FTA Section 5320 in FY14.

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

b. PA13-36: I-476, Mid County Expressway Roadway Reconstruction, (MPMS# 80479), Montgomery County – Add Back into TIP

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2013 - 2016 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a previously obligated construction phase back into the TIP in the amount of \$5,115,000 (\$2,782,000 NHS/\$991,000 STU in FY13 and \$1,342,000 NHS in FY14), in order to cover costs of additional work discovered during construction.

This project involves the total reconstruction project of 4.1 miles of I-476 from the Schuylkill Expressway (I-76) to the Mid-County Toll Plaza of the Pennsylvania Turnpike (I-276). This request for additional funding will provide roadway undercuts and backfill as required. The project had a proof rolling item in the contract that required the contractor to proof roll all of the subgrade on the project and to remove and backfill any areas that failed the proof rolling. Proof Rolling is done to test the firmness of the subgrade. It involves using a heavy roller or loaded truck and running it on the subgrade to make sure that the grade is solid. If the grade ruts under the heavy loading then it is a sign that it is either too wet, not compacted enough or there are other issues with the soil. The rutting under the proof roller indicates areas that are unstable and could cause premature failure of the pavement. The project used proof rolling to indicate areas that may need to be undercut and re-backfilled with more suitable and/or stable material. There were many more areas that failed the proof rolling than originally anticipated; therefore the quantities for the undercut excavation and backfill were overrun (\$3,260,091). Additional funding is also requested to perform the necessary repairs to the bridge (\$1,854,909) over Plymouth Creek and for the necessary adjustments to the traffic pattern design and construction to implement the repairs. It was found that many of the existing bearings, on the bridge over Plymouth Creek, were at their limits and many existing anchor bolts were sheared off necessitating replacement of both the bearings and anchor bolts. The replacement of both the bearings and anchor bolts will remove the structure from SD status.

Motion: by Linda Guarini, seconded by Matthew Edmond, to recommend the Board amend the FY2013-2016 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a previously obligated construction phase back into the TIP in the amount of \$5,115,000 (\$2,782,000 NHS/\$991,000 STU in FY13 and \$1,342,000 NHS in FY14).

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

6. Fiscal Year 2014 Planning Work Program Amendments

To respond to the needs of member governments and agencies, work program changes and additions are brought to the RTC to permit the timely undertaking of technical activity.

a. Grant Administration for PennVest Funded Tree Planting Projects in City of Chester and Sellersville Borough

PennVest is an independent agency of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania managed by a 13-member Board of Directors and chaired by the Governor, which provides funding for drinking water, wastewater treatment, stormwater management and brownfield assessments and remediation projects. The Program provides grants and long-term loans through a revolving loan fund to eligible entities. The non-point source pollution stormwater management program includes provisions for funding green infrastructure projects, such as tree plantings.

In 2011, DVRPC, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS), was awarded a \$2.1 million grant to plant 3,400 trees in seven municipalities across Southeastern Pennsylvania. All of those trees have been planted, transforming many streets and parks into green havens with better managed stormwater.

To build on that success, DVRPC and PHS partnered again to submit two more applications to PennVest for the City of Chester and for Sellersville Borough. At their April 24, 2013 meeting, the PennVest Board awarded a 100% grant for the City of Chester tree plantings, and a 50% grant, 50% loan for the Sellersville Borough tree plantings. Sellersville Borough is responsible for paying back the loan directly to PennVest, and the borough will take on the guaranty of pledging full repayment to PennVest. As the applicant, DVRPC will subcontract with PHS to manage the plantings and the two year establishment period for the new trees. DVRPC will oversee PHS and will retain funding from the grant awards for legal review, project management and administrative costs associated with grant administration.

Motion: by Matthew Lawson, seconded by Barbara Holcomb, to recommend the Board amend the DVRPC FY 2014 Planning Work Program to include the Grant Administration for PennVest Funded Tree Planting Projects in City of Chester and Sellersville Borough project.

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

7. **Authorization to Open 30-Day Public Comment Period for the Long-Range Plan and Transportation Conformity Determination**

Mike Boyer (DVRPC) asked the RTC to recommend the Board open a 30-day public comment period to gather input on the draft Long-Range Plan and draft Transportation Conformity Determination for the Connections 2040 Long-Range Plan, FY 2013-2016 Pennsylvania TIP, and FY 2014-2017 New Jersey TIP.

Motion: by Matthew Edmond, seconded by Linda Guarini, to recommend the Board open a 30-day public comment period to gather input on the draft Long-Range Plan and draft Transportation Conformity Determination for the Connections 2040 Long-Range Plan, FY 2013-2016 Pennsylvania TIP, and FY 2014-2017 New Jersey TIP.

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

8. **Appointment of Nominating Committee for FY2014 DVRPC Regional Technical Committee Officers**

John Ward (DVRPC) introduced a nominating committee to recommend a slate of candidates for Chairman and Vice Chairman for the RTC for FY14 (July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014). This committee will consist of Michelle Webb (Philadelphia Department of Streets), Andy Clark (NJDOT), and John Ward. The Chairman for FY14 must be a voting member from New Jersey, and the Vice Chairman must be a voting member from Pennsylvania. The committee will report these candidates and elections will take place at the June 2013 RTC meeting.

Motion: by Matthew Lawson, seconded by Linda Guarini, to approve the appointment of the nominating committee for FY14 RTC Chairman and Vice Chairman.

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

PRESENTATION ITEMS

9. **Community Wayfinding Signing**

Mike Ruane (DVRPC) reported on a wayfinding signage design and layout plan and related interactive database that was created as the product for municipal partners in eastern Montgomery County. The signing plans are partly in response to, and have incorporated the new MUTCD guidelines.

10. DVRPC's Travel Improvement Model 2.0

DVRPC recently completed development of its new travel forecasting model, "TIM2.0." This model is now in production and is being used for several highway and transit studies, as well as this year's Conformity Determination. Matt Gates (DVRPC) presented an overview of the model, its development, and its validation against observed travel patterns.

INFORMATION ITEMS

11. One Minute Reports

RTC Members and guests provided updates on the activities of their agencies.

12. Old Business, New Business, Public Comment on Any Non-Agenda Item

There were none.

13. Meeting Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:25AM.

The next scheduled meeting of the RTC is Tuesday, June 11, 2013.

ATTENDANCE (cont'd)

Other Member Representatives and Guests

Nicholas Bates – Philadelphia Streets Department
Sue Herman - Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc.
Dennis Winters – Clean Air Council
Nick Rogers – Clean Air Council
Bill Comer – Resident
Tom Cooper – Resident

DVRPC Staff

John Ward
Patty Elkis
Chris Puchalsky
Matthew West
Elizabeth Schoonmaker
Rick Murphy
Greg Krykewycz
Matt Gates
Renee Wise
Mike Boyer
Mike Ruane

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