



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

April 8, 2014 Meeting Highlights

DVRPC Conference Room, Philadelphia, PA

1. Call to Order - Chairperson's Comments

Andrew Levecchia (Chairperson, Camden County) welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. He welcomed new member Diana Rogers of the City of Trenton.

2. Deputy Planning Director's Report

John Ward (DVRPC) announced that the Board approved all of the action items recommended by the Committee at the RTC meeting on March 11, 2014. There was one additional action item that the Board approved that did not go through the RTC. That item was DVRPC's Disclosure of Public Records Policy which needed to be updated. While it is the Commission's intention to be transparent and cooperative, the policy defines which records are available for public review, and clarifies the process for filing a request as well as how to submit an appeal.

Mr. Ward reminded RTC members that Pennsylvania TAP applications were due April 4th and the review process is starting. DVRPC expects to see a recommended list of candidate projects come to the RTC in June at which time the RTC will be looking for a recommendation so that they can be sent to the Board.

Mr. Ward noted that New Jersey TAP applications are being accepted until May 15. Applications are to be submitted through the NJDOT SAGE (System for Administering Grants Electronically) system.

Mr. Ward called the RTC's attention to the fact that in the last few weeks the United States Department of Transportation has released two notices of proposed rulemakings dealing with the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). The first rulemaking dealt with performance measures for safety. The second dealt with each states' requirement to develop a Strategic Highway Safety Plan as part of their HSIP and the requirement to show a consistency between the goals of all the safety plans that states are required to develop. DVRPC staff have been reviewing these rulemakings and providing comments to both PennDOT and NJDOT. Rulemaking for statewide and metropolitan planning requirements and other performance measures are also forthcoming and DVRPC will have its eyes out for them.

Mr. Ward encouraged RTC members to participate in NJDOT's Strategic Highway Safety Plan Workshop on April 22. The goal is to gather input from the state's safety stakeholders on critical safety issues.

Mr. Ward called RTC members' attention to new DVRPC reports; The Future of Scenario Planning; Equity and Opportunity: DVRPC's Title VI Compliance Plan; and Funding Trails: A Guide to Funding Multi-Use Trails in Southeastern PA.

Mr. Ward reminded RTC members that there is a Delaware Valley Goods Movement Task Force meeting taking place on April 16, a Rail Users Network/SEPTA CAC meeting taking place on May 2.

Mr. Ward noted that the next RTC meeting will be taking place on May 6.

3. Public Comment on Any Agenda and Non-Agenda Item

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Highlights of the Meeting of March 11, 2014

The highlights from March 11, 2014 meeting of the RTC were presented for adoption.

Motion: by Barbara Holcomb, seconded by Matt Lawson to adopt the highlights for the March 11, 2014 RTC meeting.

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

5. DVRPC Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Actions

Kwan Hui (DVRPC) presented four TIP amendments for consideration.

a. PA13-70: Congested Corridor Program Statewide Funding, (Various MPMS#s) Various Counties – Add Proposed New Projects

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2013 - 2016 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding two new Congested Corridor Program funded projects to the TIP in the amount of \$3,750,000 (\$1,080,000 CAQ/ \$2,270,000 STP/ \$400,000 581) for preliminary engineering and construction in FY14. The DVRPC region has been allocated \$3,750,000 out of a total of \$8,867,000 from the Statewide Congested Corridor Program Reserve (MPMS# 95269) for FY14. These are additional funds to the region and must be obligated by September 30, 2014. The purpose of the Congested Corridor Program is to address roadway congestion and safety issues tied to congestion in an innovative, low-cost, and cost-effective manner.

Motion: by Tom Shaffer, seconded by Lisa Worden to recommend the Board approve the following TIP Action:

PA13-70, PennDOT's request that DVRPC amend the FY2013-2016 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding two new Congested Corridor Program funded projects to the TIP in the amount of \$3,750,000 (\$1,080,000 CAQ/ \$2,270,000 STP/ \$400,000 581) for preliminary

engineering and construction in FY14. Congested Corridor Program funds are additional to the region, provided by the Statewide Congested Corridor Program Reserve (MPMS# 95269), which will fund the following projects:

1. Newtown Bypass and Street Road Adaptive Signal Controls (MPMS# 102278), Bucks County -
\$1,750,000 (FY14 PE: \$30,000 STP; FY14 CON: \$640,000 STP/ \$1,080,000 CAQ)
2. I-476/I-95 Interchange (MPMS# 102276), Delaware County - \$2,000,000 (FY14 PE: \$160,000 STP/ \$40,000 State 581; FY14 CON \$1,440,000 STP/ \$360,000 State 581)

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

b. PA13-71: Vehicle Overhaul Program, (MPMS# 60582) SEPTA – Increase Funding

SEPTA has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2013 - 2016 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing the FY14 CAP phase overall by \$9,853,000 (\$3,577,000 Section 5307/ \$4,630,000 Section 5309/ \$1,599,000 State 1514 Bond/ \$47,000 Local) from \$50,966,000 to \$60,819,000 and by increasing the FY15 CAP phase overall by \$2,987,000 (\$1,000,000 Section 5307 decrease/ \$3,907,000 State 1514 Bond increase/ \$80,000 Local increase) from \$56,499,000 to \$59,486,000. These cost modifications will align SEPTA's federal funding in accordance with MAP-21 and FFY14 appropriations.

Motion: by Zoe Robertson, seconded by Rich Brahler to recommend the Board approve the following TIP Action:

PA13-71, SEPTA's request that DVRPC modify the FY2013-2016 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing the FY14 CAP phase overall by \$9,853,000 (\$3,577,000 Section 5307/ \$4,630,000 Section 5309/ \$1,599,000 State 1514 Bond/ \$47,000 Local) from \$50,966,000 to \$60,819,000 and by increasing the FY15 CAP phase overall by \$2,987,000 (\$1,000,000 Section 5307 decrease/ \$3,907,000 State 1514 Bond increase/ \$80,000 Local increase) from \$56,499,000 to \$59,486,000, in accordance with MAP-21 and FY14 appropriations.

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

c. NJ14-22: Signs Program, Statewide, (DB# X39) Various – Federalize

NJDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2014 - 2017 STIP for New Jersey by adding \$500,000 NHPP funds to each year from FY14 to FY18 totaling \$2,500,000 NHPP for Engineering/Construction (EC) and by including in the scope of work the replacement of signs that are not in compliance with the current MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices). This action would federalize (add federal funds to) NJDOT's Statewide Signs Program.

Motion: by Carol Thomas, seconded by Jessica Lucas to recommend the Board approve the following TIP Action:

NJ14-22, NJDOT's request that DVRPC amend the FY2014 - 2017 STIP for New Jersey by adding \$500,000 NHPP funds to each year from FY14 to FY18 totaling \$2,500,000 NHPP for Engineering/Construction (EC) and by including in the scope of work the replacement of signs that are not in compliance with the current MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices). This action would federalize (add federal funds to) NJDOT's Statewide Signs Program.

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. NEC FUTURE – DVRPC Forecasting Work

Fang Yuan (DVRPC) explained that NEC FUTURE is a comprehensive planning effort to define, evaluate, and prioritize future investments along Amtrak's Northeast Corridor (NEC), launched by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) in February 2012. The NEC FUTURE program includes both a Service Development Plan (SDP) and a broad environmental analysis known as a Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement, or EIS. To date, the project has performed a screening of a long list of preliminary alternatives down to 6 alternatives for further, more detailed analysis. Moving into the next phase of the project, the NEC FUTURE team will begin evaluating these alternatives using robust travel demand forecasting techniques to fully quantify the benefits of expanding train operations and capacity on the Northeast Corridor.

Motion: by Matt Lawson, seconded by Jessica Lucas, to recommend the Board amend the FY2014 Planning Work Program to add the NEC Future – DVRPC Forecasting Work.

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

PRESENTATION ITEMS

7. Regional Aviation System Plan (RASP) Update: Activities to Date

Kale Driemeier (DVRPC) explained that the Delaware Valley is home to 24 public use airports and one heliport. These aviation facilities play a vital role in the regional economy by attracting and retaining businesses, allowing quick access to other locales, offering flight instruction for pilots, and providing recreational activities. The RASP compiles aviation related data, trends, and analysis and provides recommendations and objectives to guide aviation planning in the region for the near future.

8. 2010 Employment Centers Study and Regional Economic Cluster Analysis

Mary Bell (DVRPC) informed the RTC that DVRPC is currently in the process of updating Greater Philadelphia's regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), as required by the U.S. Economic Development Administration every five years. In this presentation, staff will update Committee members on two studies that will serve as background for the CEDS update. The first study identifies and describes employment centers in the nine-county DVRPC region, defined as integrated, concentrated areas of non-residential development that share transportation and land use linkages. The second report discusses regional economic clusters, based on the method and definitions advanced by the U.S. Cluster Mapping Project.

9. Web-based Geospatial Tools for Planning

Chris Pollard (DVRPC) explained that browser-based Geospatial tools are allowing GIS and other datasets to be easily accessed by non-GIS experts to support local decision-making. The ease of use and real-time accessibility of these tools allow them to be used live during meetings or in the field via mobile computing devices. A number of recently developed geospatial applications, which have helped further the planning and decision-making process were presented.

INFORMATION ITEMS

10. Spring Means Bike Data: Cyclical Bike Count Program and CyclePhilly Smartphone Survey

Greg Krykewycz (DVRPC) briefed the committee on the new cyclical bike count program (and the recent request for committee help with count locations), as well as the pending CyclePhilly smartphone survey for regional cyclists, which RTC members can help DVRPC promote.

11. One Minute Reports

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

12. Old Business and New Business

Jane Meconi (DVRPC) called the RTC's attention to the fact that the Online Business Technology Training is now active and accepting registered users. This program is open to all Pennsylvania residents. It can be accessed through DVRPC or through the Pennsylvania Online Technology Training website (www.paobtt.com).

13. Meeting Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM.

The next scheduled meeting of the RTC is Tuesday, May 6, 2014.

ATTENDANCE (cont'd)

Transportation Operations Task Force	(not represented)
US EPA - Region II	(not represented)
US EPA - Region III	(not represented)
US Department of Housing and Urban Development	(not represented)

Other Member Representatives and Guests

Christina Velazquez- Gloucester County
Bill Comer – Resident
Dennis Winters – Clean Air Council
Matthew Edmond - MCPC

DVRPC Staff

Rich Bickel
John Ward
Patty Elkis
Chris Puchalsky
Candy Snyder
Rick Murphy
Elizabeth Schoonmaker
Julia Strapp
Jane Meconi
Greg Krykewycz
Fang Yuan
Kale Driemeier
Mary Bell
Mike Boyer
Brett Fusco
Kwan Hui
Chris Pollard
Glenn McNichol
Renee Wise

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