



DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

REGIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

November 10, 2015 Meeting Highlights

DVRPC Conference Room, Philadelphia, PA

1. Call to Order - Chairperson's Comments

Edward Williams (Chair, City of Camden) welcomed RTC members and called the meeting to order.

2. Deputy Executive 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 October 6, 2015.

Mr. Ward noted that DVRPC is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year and invited everyone to attend the Anniversary Dinner on December 9. He thanked all those organizations who are helping to sponsor the Dinner and recognized them by reading off all their names. He followed that by offering several highlights of this month in DVRPC history.

In 1965, the Executive Committee established a Work Program Committee and a Personnel Committee. The Executive Committee also took action on the selection of a bank, the adoption of an accounting system, approval of salary increases for staff that had transitioned from our predecessor agency (Penn-Jersey Transportation Study) who were due increases back in July, and adoption of a budget.

In 1975, the Board approved the 1975 air quality report entitled, "Assessment of Consistency: Regional Transportation Plans with State Air Quality Implementation Plans" and concurred with the report's analysis and conclusion that the 1985 Regional Transportation Plan for the Delaware Valley Region (the long range plan) is consistent with the State Air Quality Implementation Plans and Programs of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the State of New Jersey.

In December of 1985, it was reported that the New Jersey legislature passed Senate Bill 1464, known as the "State Planning Act". The Act established a State Planning Commission and an Office of State Planning in the Department of the Treasury to replace the Division of State and Regional Planning in the Department of Community Affairs and required the Commission to work closely with regional and interstate agencies. The State Planning Commission's primary function is to prepare, adopt, and, as needed, revise and update a "State Development and Redevelopment Plan. The Board also heard from Mr. Coscia, DVRPC's Executive Director, who shared a number of newspaper articles with the Board providing the latest developments regarding the proposed sale of Conrail.

In December of 1995, Chairman Ridgeley P. Ware called the meeting to order and announced the retirement of Art Loeben, Director of the Montgomery County Planning Commission. He presented Mr. Loeben with a memento of DVRPC's appreciation for his leadership and commitment to DVRPC for over 30 years. The Board authorized the Executive Director to distribute the Draft FY 1997 Planning Work Program for review and

comment and recommendations to be presented to the Board at its January 1996 meeting for final approval.

In December of 2005, The Board approved a Work Program Amendment to prepare new traffic forecasts for Section 700 of US 202 since an agreement had been reached between PennDOT and the communities to “right-size” the project into the Parkway design. DVRPC’s Regional Citizens Committee (RCC) had opposed this project since they were typically opposed to new highway construction. NJ DOT Commissioner Jack Lettiere was in attendance and spoke about New Jersey’s need to re-fund the Transportation Trust Fund. He indicated that after July 1, 2006 all funds from the Transportation Trust Fund will be depleted. He indicated that Governor-Elect Corzine and the New Jersey Legislature will need to make a decision as to how these funds can be replenished.

Mr. Ward noted that last week, the House passed a six-year, \$325 billion surface transportation reauthorization bill. The Surface Transportation Reauthorization & Reform (STRR) Act of 2015 cleared the House by a vote of 363-64. A last-minute amendment was added to STRR that secured an additional \$40 billion in revenue from an unused Federal Reserve account. This means that while the House bill is now funded for a full six years, it still does not increase highway and transit funding levels over the current amount. There was no vote on multiple amendments that were offered to raise the federal gas tax.

Some highlights of the House bill include:

- Multi-year program certainty that will help states and localities better plan and deliver projects;
- Accelerated project delivery reforms aimed to improve collaboration between agencies and create deadlines for agency action(s);
- Providing grants to states for continued and expanded pilot testing of future road user fee collection systems;
- A new competitive grant to address bus and bus facility needs;
- Increased focus on funding for roadway safety infrastructure and on the safety needs of rural roads; and
- An option for localities to bundle small projects such as bridges to increase efficiency.

The House vote follows previous Senate action in July on its surface transportation bill (DRIVE Act), which provided only three years of funding although at much higher levels. Now the House and Senate will work to negotiate a compromise before the looming November 20 deadline.

Mr. Ward called attention to some new reports including: 1) 2012-2013 Household Travel Survey for the Delaware Valley Region (2) gc2040: People, Place, Prosperity - Community Vision for Gloucester County

Meeting Reminders:

Mr. Ward noted that there is an Urban Waterfront Action Group meeting on Nov 17, a Public Participation Task Force meeting on December 3, a Transportation Operations Task Force meeting on December 7, DVRPC’s 50th Anniversary Dinner on December 9, an Information Resources Exchange Group meeting on December 9, a Philadelphia Diesel Difference Working Group meeting on December 14, a Regional Safety Task Force meeting on December 15, and a Regional Aviation Committee meeting on December 17.

Mr. Ward reminded RTC members that the next RTC meeting will be taking place on **Tuesday, January 12, 2016.**

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

No public comments were stated.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Highlights of the Meeting of October 6, 2015

The highlights from the October 6, 2015 meeting of the RTC were presented for adoption.

Motion: by Barbara Holcomb, seconded by Randy Waltermeyer to adopt the highlights for the October 6, 2015 RTC meeting.

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

PRESENTATION ITEMS

5. Federal Railroad Administration's NEC FUTURE Effort

Amishi Castelli (Federal Railroad Association) and Daniel Baer (WSP/Parsons Brinckerhoff) explained that the FRA has undertaken a comprehensive planning effort to define, evaluate, and prioritize future investments in the Northeast Corridor (NEC) from Washington, D.C. to Boston. This effort, NEC FUTURE, was launched in 2012 to consider the role of rail passenger service in the corridor and develop a long-term vision and investment program for the NEC. An update and discussion on this initiative was provided for the recently released Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement Alternatives Report.

6. Chester County's New Multi-Modal Handbook

Randy Waltermeyer (Chester County) and William DeGuffnoy (Chester County) explained that as an implementation priority from Chester County's Public Transportation Plan (2013-2014), the Chester County Planning Commission has worked over the last 18 months to develop and subsequently market the Chester County Multimodal Handbook. This resource is intended to provide municipal officials, planners, engineers, designers, and developers with a consolidated reference guide on how to accommodate all modes of transportation into land use / land development design.

7. City Branch Transit Feasibility Study

Betsy Mastaglio (DVRPC) presented an overview of findings from this study that explored an unused, SEPTA-owned rail corridor in Center City Philadelphia to evaluate its potential use as a transportation asset. The study analyzed three transportation concepts for feasibility: a proposed tourist bus route, an express busway for existing SEPTA routes, and a combined busway and trail.

8. RTAC Transit Update

Greg Krykewycz (DVRPC) updated the RTC on the status of transit planning efforts underway, previewed upcoming projects, and discussed possibilities for a spring RTAC round if capacity permits, in lieu of an RTAC meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS

9. One Minute Reports

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

10. Old Business

11. New Business

12. Meeting Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:17 PM.

The next scheduled meeting of the RTC is **Tuesday, January 12, 2016.**

ATTENDANCE

Voting Members

NJ Department of Transportation
NJ Department of Environmental Protection
NJ Department of Community Affairs
NJ Governor's Appointee
NJ Office for Planning Advocacy
PA Department of Community and Economic Development
PA Department of Environmental Protection
PA Department of Transportation
PA Governor's Appointee
PA Governor's Policy Office
Bucks County
Burlington County
Camden County
Chester County
Delaware County
Gloucester County
Mercer County
Montgomery County
City of Philadelphia – City Planning Commission
City of Philadelphia – Department of Streets
City of Philadelphia – Mayor's Office of Transportation
City of Camden
City of Chester
City of Trenton
Delaware River Port Authority
New Jersey Transit Corporation
Port Authority Transit Corporation
Southeastern PA Transportation Authority
Public Participation Task Force (NJ)
Public Participation Task Force (PA)

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
NJ Turnpike Authority
New Jersey TMAs
Pennsylvania TMAs
Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission
Philadelphia Regional Port Authority
Pottstown Urban Transit
Select Greater Philadelphia
South Jersey Port Corporation
South Jersey Transportation Authority
Transportation Operations Task Force
US EPA - Region II

Representative

Monica Etz
Ruth Foster
(not represented)
(not represented)
Alan Miller
(not represented)
(not represented)
James Mosca
(not represented)
Linda Guarini
Rich Brahler
Carol Thomas
Andrew Levecchia
Randy Waltermeyer
Tom Shaffer
(not represented)
Matthew Lawson
Crystal Gilchrist
David Kanthor
Nicholas Baker
Angela Dixon
Edward Williams
(not represented)
Jeffrey Wilkerson
Barbara Holcomb
Lou Millan
(not represented)
Zoe Robertson
(not represented)
Jim Hopkins

Representative

(not represented)
Kelvin MacKavanagh
(not represented)
Dan Walston
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
Bill Ragozine
(not represented)
(not represented)
Jacqueline Mandly
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)

ATTENDANCE (cont'd)

US EPA - Region III

(not represented)

US Department of Housing and Urban Development

(not represented)

Other Member Representatives and Guests

Amishi Castelli, USDOT

Dan Baer, WSP/Parsons Brinckerhoff

William DeGuffroy, Chester County

Al Federico – McCormick Taylor

Jim Saksa – PlanPhilly/WHYY

Jason Laughlin – Philadelphia Inquirer

Bill Comer – Resident of Philadelphia

Sue Herman – Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions

DVRPC Staff

Barry Seymour

John Ward

Patty Elkis

Chris Puchalsky

Jesse Buerk

Elise Turner

Brett Fusco

Mike Boyer

Rick Murphy

Zoe Neaderland

Thom Stead

Elizabeth Schoonmaker

Kwan Hui

Ben Gruswitz

Sean Greene

Shawn Megill-Legendre

Shoshana Akins

Greg Krykewycz

Betsy Mastaglio

Alison Hastings

Logan Axelson

Amy Bernknopf

Sarah Moran

Andrew Svekla

Beth Wichser

Scott Johnson

Rob Graff

Chris Linn

Renee Wise

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appropriate state or federal agency within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory occurrence. For more information on DVRPC's Title VI program, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, please call (215) 238-2871 or email.