

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
REGIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
November 1, 2016 Meeting Highlights
DVRPC Conference Room, Philadelphia, PA

1. Call to Order - Chairperson's Comments

Thomas Shaffer (Chair, Delaware County) welcomed RTC members and called the meeting to order.

2. Deputy Executive Director's Report

DVRPC Deputy Executive Director John Ward announced that at their October meeting, the Board approved the recommendations that the RTC forwarded to them from our October meeting.

Mr. Ward reported that DVRPC submitted another letter to the Docket regarding the MPO Coordination and Planning Area Reform proposed rule. This was in response to the US DOT's request for specific and detailed comments on three items: 1) the impact of the proposed requirements for unified planning products where multiple MPOs serve the same urbanized area, 2) potential exceptions that should be included in the final rule, and 3) specific and detailed comments on the expected costs of implementing the proposed rule.

Mr. Ward noted that in New Jersey, the Transportation Trust Fund Renewal Package goes into effect today increasing the gas tax by 23 cents per gallon and creating reductions in other taxes such as the state sales tax and the estate tax. The package establishes a \$2 billion-a-year transportation trust fund over eight years. Voters will be asked to decide on a referendum on the Nov. 8th ballot that would constitutionally dedicate this new revenue to the Transportation Trust Fund. Some of the previous 14.5 cents per gallon gas tax did not go to the TTF.

Mr. Ward called the RTC's attention to the fact that today is day 1 of the SEPTA City Transit Division strike. Regional Rail, Suburban Transit, Norristown High Speed Line, Trolleys 101 and 102 and CCT Connect service will still be running but all city bus routes, Market Frankfort Line, Broad Street Subway, and trolley routes 10, 11, 13, 15, 34, and 36 will not be running. SEPTA has initiated an alternate service plan and is using all their resources to serve customers as best they can. SEPTA is asking travelers to monitor their website and media outlets for the latest information.

Mr. Ward noted that Governor Wolf Announced \$40 Million from the Multimodal Transportation Fund for 37 PennDOT Projects. Seven Projects were located in the DVRPC region.

Mr. Ward announced that a New Jersey TAP round is still open and applications are due to NJ DOT by November 10th. Information is posted on our website and NJ DOT's web site.

Mr. Ward reported that there are several new DVRPC publications available including: Darby Transportation Center TOD Study, Rightsizing Police and Fire Facilities, and Highlights of the DVRPC FY2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for PA.

Mr. Ward noted that there is a Healthy Communities Task Force meeting on Nov. 10, a Public Participation Task Force meeting on December 1, a Regional Safety Task Force meeting on December 8, a Regional Aviation Committee meeting on December 15, and the DVRPC Board Retreat and Board Meeting on December 6 and 7.

Mr. Ward reminded RTC members that the next RTC meeting will be taking place on Tuesday, January 10, 2017.

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

No public comments were stated.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Highlights of the Meeting of October 11, 2016

The highlights from the October 11, 2016 meeting of the RTC were presented for adoption.

Motion: *by Daniel Walston, seconded by Barbara Holcomb* that the RTC adopt the minutes of October 11, 2016.

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

5. DVRPC Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Actions

a. PA17-05: Transit and Regional Rail Station Program, (MPMS #77183), SEPTA – Advance Project to Current Fiscal Year

SEPTA has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2017 – 2020 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing the funding in SEPTA's Transit and Regional Rail Station Program – MPMS #77183 by \$8,750,000 (\$4,000,000 Section 5339/\$4,597,000 State 1514/\$153,000 Local) in FY17 in order to advance the Wissahickon Transportation Center (WTC) project.

Motion: *by Zoe Robertson, seconded by David Kanthor* that the RTC recommend the Board approve:

TIP Action PA17-05, SEPTA's request that DVRPC amend the FY2017 – 2020 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing the funding in SEPTA's Transit and Regional Rail Station Program – MPMS #77183 by \$8,750,000 (\$4,000,000 Section 5339/\$4,597,000 State 1514/\$153,000 Local) in FY17 in order to advance the Wissahickon Transportation Center (WTC) project.

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

b. PA17-06: South Philadelphia Access Road (PRPA Access Project), (MPMS #74841), City of Philadelphia – Add Project Back into TIP

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2017 – 2020 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding the South Philadelphia Access Road – MPMS #74841 project, back into the TIP for construction in FY17, in the amount of \$840,000 STU/Toll Credit match.

Motion: by *Angela Dixon*, seconded by *Barbara Holcomb* that the RTC recommend the Board approve:

TIP Action PA17-06, PennDOT's request that DVRPC amend the FY2017 – 2020 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding the South Philadelphia Access Road – MPMS #74841 project, back into the TIP for construction in FY17, in the amount of \$840,000 STU/Toll Credit match.

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

c. NJ16-068: Route 295/42/I-76, Direct Connection, Contract 4, (DB# 355E) – Cost Increase

NJDOT has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2016 - 2019 TIP for New Jersey by increasing the FY19 Construction (CON) phase by \$15,000,000 from \$80,000,000 to \$95,000,000 NHPP funds for the project, Route 295/42/I-76, Direct Connection, Contract 4 (DB #355E). This action would raise the overall construction cost of Contract 4 by about 7.5 percent from \$200 million to \$215 million. The cost increase is primarily due to increased roadway and bridge material costs, including design work to address changes made from earlier contracts and longer duration for construction support services.

Motion: by *Andrew Levecchia*, seconded by *June Morton* that the RTC recommend the Board approve:

TIP Action NJ16-068, NJDOT's request that DVRPC modify the FY2016-2019 TIP for New Jersey by increasing the FY19 Construction (CON) phase by \$15,000,000 from \$80,000,000 to \$95,000,000 NHPP funds for the project, Route 295/42/I-76, Direct Connection, Contract 4 (DB #355E).

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

d. NJ16-057: Pavement Preservation, (DB# X51), Statewide – Cost Increase

NJDOT has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2016 – 2025 STIP for New Jersey by increasing the Engineering and Construction (EC) phase of the program line item, Pavement Preservation, (DB# X51), in NJDOT's Statewide Program by \$10,000,000 from \$6,000,000 to \$16,000,000 NHPP funds for each year in FY17, FY18, and FY19. The result of this action would be a \$30,000,000 overall cost increase for this Statewide Program line item.

Motion: by Andrew Levecchia, *seconded by Monica Etz* that the RTC recommend the Board approve:

TIP Action NJ16-057, NJDOT's request that DVRPC modify the FY2016-2025 STIP for New Jersey by increasing the Engineering and Construction (EC) phase of the program line item, Pavement Preservation, (DB# X51), in NJDOT's Statewide Program by \$10,000,000 from \$6,000,000 to \$16,000,000 NHPP funds for each year in FY17, FY18, and FY19. The result of this action would be a \$30,000,000 overall cost increase for this Statewide Program line item.

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

6. Fiscal Year 2017 Planning Work Program Amendments

a. NJ Regional Curve Inventory and Safety Assessment

Kevin Murphy, DVRPC, requested an amendment to the work program to accept state HSIP funding to expand the work that is currently proposed as part of the NJ Regional Curve Inventory and Assessment to also cover the SJTPO region.

Motion by: *Matthew Lawson, seconded by Andrew Levecchia* that the RTC recommend the Board amend:

DVRPC's FY17 UPWP to include "NJ Regional Curve Inventory and Safety Assessment."

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

b. Mid-Atlantic Port Workshop

Sean Green, DVRPC, explained that staff has applied for U.S. EPA funding to host a one-day Mid-Atlantic Port Sustainability Workshop. Topics for presentation and discussion will address sources of funding for port projects, environmental mitigation best practices, improving air quality and climate change. The workshop will support EPA's strategic plan goal of "Addressing Climate Change and Improving Air Quality" and will also support EPA's Cross-Agency Strategies of: 1) working to make a visible difference in communities and 2) strengthening partnerships with states and local governments through consultation, collaboration and shared accountability.

Motion: *by Andrew Levecchia, seconded by Matthew Edmond* that the RTC recommend the Board amend:

DVRPC's FY17 UPWP to include "Mid-Atlantic Port Workshop."

Motion Passed. All votes were case in favor of the motion

c. SolSmart Technical Assistance Program

Elizabeth Compitello, DVRPC, explained that SolSmart is a national recognition and a no-cost technical assistance program managed by The Solar Foundation and funded through the U.S. Department of Energy's SunShot

Initiative. SolSmart provides free hands-on technical assistance to local governments who wish to achieve “SolSmart designation”. DVRPC has been competitively selected to provide technical assistance to six or more municipalities in Southeastern Pennsylvania that formally commit to achieving designation under the SolSmart Program. DVRPC staff will receive intensive training from The Solar Foundation and will provide the technical assistance.

Motion: *by Jim Mosca, seconded by Matthew Edmond* that the RTC recommend the Board amend:

DVRPC’s FY17 UPWP to include “SolSmart Technical Assistance Program”

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. RideECO Research Results

Stacy Bartels, DVRPC, introduced Don Heilala, President of Industrial Research Center who recently conducted qualitative and quantitative research among current clients and participants on the implementation and management of a company’s RideECO Commuter Benefit Program. Results of this research also examined the effect participation in the program has had on employee commute habits as well as provides direction to RideECO program operations, administration and marketing efforts.

8. FY18 UPWP Development Status

John Ward, DVRPC, discussed the status of FY18 Work Program development.

PRESENTATION ITEMS

9. Darby Transportation Center Access & Development Opportunities Study

Emily Costello, DVRPC, explained that DVRPC’s Smart Growth office studied the area surrounding the Darby Transportation Center to determine if transit-oriented development (TOD) is currently a possibility there. The project team looked at TOD-readiness factors and existing conditions, market conditions, circulation and access issues, and developable sites in order to make recommendations for future development.

10. Concept Development for Southern Chester County—New Castle County Transit Service

Amy Bernknopf, DVRPC, and Sarah Moran, DVRPC explained that this project examines the potential for public transit service between Southern Chester and New Castle Counties, where there is currently a gap in public transit service. The project team developed two strategies that can be used to work towards implementing service in this area.

INFORMATION ITEMS

11. One Minute Reports

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

12. Old and New Business

13. Meeting Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:13 PM.

The next scheduled meeting of the RTC is **Tuesday, January 10, 2017.**

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 – OTIS
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)

Representative

Monica Etz
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
Jonathan Korus
(not represented)
(not represented)
Rich Brahler
Carol Thomas
Andrew Levecchia
Brian Styche
Tom Shaffer
(not represented)
Matthew Lawson
Matthew Edmond
David Kanthor
Michelle Webb
Angela Dixon
June Morton
Latifah Griffin
(not represented)
Barbara Holcomb
Jennifer Adam
Rohan Hepkins
Zoe Robertson
(not represented)
(not represented)

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

(not represented)
(not represented)
(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)
Steve Mazur
(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

Doug Zimmerman - PennDOT

John Krafczyk– PennDOT

Dan Whaland – Delaware County Planning Department

John Caperilla – Borton-Lawson

Don Heilala – Industrial Research Center

Sue Herman – Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc.

DVRPC Staff

John Ward

Patty Elkis

Chris Puchalsky

Elizabeth Schoonmaker

Mike Boyer

Karin Morris

Grey Krykewycz

Kwan Hui

Rick Murphy

Jesse Buerk

Betsy Mastaglio

Erin Burke

Stacy Bartels

Sean Greene

Kevin Murphy

Alison Hastings

Elise Turner

Shoshana Akins

Logan Axelson

Amy Bernknopf

Sarah Moran

Elizabeth Compitello

Van Doan

Emily Costello

Renee Wise

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, and related nondiscrimination statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. DVRPC's website, www.dvrpc.org, may be translated into multiple languages. Publications and other public documents can be made available in alternative languages and formats, if requested. DVRPC public meetings are always held in ADA-accessible facilities and in transit-accessible locations when possible. Auxiliary services can be provided to individuals who submit a request at least seven days prior to a meeting. Requests made within seven days will be accommodated to the greatest extent possible. Any person who believes they have been aggrieved by an unlawful discriminatory practice by DVRPC under Title VI has a right to file a formal complaint. Any such complaint may be in writing and filed with DVRPC's Title VI Compliance Manager and/or the 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.