

TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS TASK FORCE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

March 13, 2017

1. Welcome and Introductions

Laurie Matkowski, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), welcomed members and thanked them for attending.

2. Construction Coordination – Forum Discussion

Agency representatives highlighted major regional construction projects scheduled for this upcoming construction season and what might be forthcoming in the next two to three years.

▶ ***Pennsylvania Department of Transportation – District 6-0***

Jim Miller, Michael Baker, presented on projects for PennDOT and focused on the I-95 corridor from the NJ State Line to the Delaware State line. This corridor is divided into four sectors, covering three counties, 51 miles, 325 lane miles, and 210. Construction is projected into 2031.

Active projects along this section include:

- I-95, Section CPR – Cottman Avenue/ Princeton Interchange (2014-2017). Reconstruction of I-95 and improve the interchange at Cottman Avenue.
- I-95, Section GIR – Girard Avenue (2014-2020). Reconstruction of I-95 between the Vine Street and Alleghany Avenue Interchanges, including the Girard Avenue Interchange.
- I-95, Section BSR/BRI – Betsy Ross Bridge (October 2014-2025).
 - BRI – Reconstruction of I-95 from Bridge Street Interchange through the Betsy Ross Bridge Interchange, including the Betsy Ross Bridge Interchange. It will improve the Betsy Ross Bridge/Aramingo Avenue interchange and widen and reconstruct I-95 and its bridges from Orthodox Street to Wheatsheaf Lane.
 - BSR – Reconstruction of I-95 from bridge over Margaret Street to the bridge over Levick Street, including Bridge Street Interchange.
- I-95, Section AFC – Allegheny (2017-2026). Reconstruction of I-95 from just south of Betsy Ross Bridge Interchange to just south of the Alleghany/Castor Avenue Interchange including the Alleghany/Castor Avenue Interchanges. It is currently in the design phase.
- I-95, Sector B – I-676 Interchange to Broad Street. Focus Areas include Penn's Landing (possible CAP), Walt Whitman Bridge Interchange, PA 611/Sports Complex/Navy Yard. Study and Project Development began in 2015.

- Along with the I-95 construction, several congestion management strategies are being implemented such as traffic signal upgrades to the city street grid and corridor wide expansion of ITS devices. Furthermore there are transit improvements including additional SEPTA train cars and improvement to several parking lots.
- I-676 Vine Street Expressway project to include replacement of seven bridge structures from 18th Street to 22nd Street and other local road and sidewalk improvements (2015-2020).

Other upcoming projects in the region include:

- I-95 at US 322
- I-95/Scudder Falls Bridge
- I-95 at PA Turnpike Interchange
- Vine Street Expressway Bridges
- I-76 Advanced Traffic Management
- Chestnut Street Bridge over I-76/

► ***New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT)***

Mike Pilsbury and Saidul Islam, NJDOT, presented construction projects focusing on the southern portion of the state. There is significant work in the upcoming 2017 construction season and these projects include:

- I-295/I-76/NJ Route 42 Direct Connect (2016-2023)

The Direct Connect Advance ITS Project is under construction on I-76, I-295, I-676, US 130, NJ 42, NJ 55, and NJ 168. It will provide a direct connection for I-295 traffic to bypass the Rt. 42 and I-76 traffic. As a result, it will help to upgrade the expected highway speed for I-295 above the current 35 M.P.H. speed limit needed to negotiate the Al-Jo's ramps, and reduce the accident rate in the area which is currently seven times the state average.

Contract #1, awarded January 2013, constructed four new bridges as well as reconstructed sections of I-295 (south of NJ 42) and I-76 (at the northern end of the project) and completed November 2016.

Contract #2, will construct I-295 north of Browning Road to NJ-168, new ramps connecting I-76 East to I-295 North; I-295 South to I-76 West; and a portion of I-295 South to NJ-42. Also the Bell Road Bridge over I-295 will be replaced. Estimated construction completion for this contract is spring 2018

Traffic impacts for this project include long term construction zones, bridge demolition and construction, local road detours, as well as daily daytime and nighttime temporary lane closures.

Contract #3 (Ready for construction from spring 2017 to summer 2020) will construct the new I-295 NB and SB structures over I-76, Route 42, Ramps C and E, and Browning Road and complete the new Ramp A (Route 42 NB to I-295 NB) bridge. The new I-295 SB direct connection and Ramp A will be open to traffic upon completion of this contract.

Contract #4 (summer 2020 to summer 2023) is currently in design.

Other projects in the region include:

- Rt. 168 Newton Lake Dam (Construction of spillway, re-decking of bridge, replacement of full superstructure; estimated construction completion date July 2018). Traffic Impacts: NB reduced to one lane for the duration; maintain two travel lanes in the SB direction.
- Rt. 1 Business Brunswick Circle to Lake Drive (Drainage, curbing, excavation, traffic signal, paving; Estimated construction completion February 2017)
- Rt. 31 Bridge over CSX Railroad (Bridge replacement and pavement rehabilitation work; estimated construction completion August 2018). Traffic Impacts: One lane of traffic is maintained in each direction, but lane width is reduced to 11 feet, prohibiting wide loads.
- Rt. 130 Raccoon Creek Bridge Replacement and Pavement Rehabilitation (Replacement of vertical lift bridge over Raccoon Creek; Estimated construction completion October 2019). Traffic Impacts: right lanes closed and traffic placed into the existing Route 130 NB and SB left lanes.
- Rt. 295 Repaupo Rd (CR 684) to Rt. 45 (Installing thin overlay to prevent significant profile modifications; estimated construction completion August 2017). Traffic Impacts: nighttime lane closures and off peak hour daytime lane closures.
- Rt. 70 Red Lion Rd (CR 685) to Dakota Trail (Resurfacing, guiderail, painted crosswalks, traffic signals and handicapped ramps; estimated substantial completion September 2017). Traffic Impacts: Shoulder closures, night time lane closures.
- Rt. 130 Brooklawn Circles (MP 25.5 to 26.5): Addressing safety and operational issues within the project limit. Estimated construction completion January 2018.
- I-295 Ramps over D & R Canal and Ship Creek: Bridge deck replacement work. Construction estimated completion of June 2017.
- Rt. 130 Crystal Lake Dam: Currently in winter shutdown, reopens June 2017. Traffic Impacts: One lane reduced each direction during construction.
- I-295 (Rt. 168 to CR 537): Pavement Preservation (In Design)
- I-76 / I-676 Bridge Deck Replacements (In Design)

► **Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC)**

Mike Phillips, PTC, presented several PTC projects.

PA Turnpike/I-95 Interchange Project

- Turnpike Widening With I-95 Interchange Flyovers (2015 – 2018)
- I-95 Widening and Interchange Flyovers completion (2015 – 2018)
- Route 13 Connector. Reconstruction of existing US 13 Interchange Ramps and replacement of existing ramp bridge over local road. Removal of existing ramp bridge over US 13.
- Section D10: I-276 (I-95 to Bristol-Oxford Valley Road), bid 2014, 3 year construction timeline
 - 7 bridges, 10 retaining wall, 12 noise walls, 2 culvert extensions
 - Widening 2.5 miles of roadway from I-95 to MP 358
- Section D20: I-95 (Ford Road to I-276), bid 2015, 3 year construction timeline
 - 2 bridges, 5 retaining walls, 3 noise walls
 - Widening 2 miles of roadway from PA Route 413 to PTC mainline
- I-95/I-295 Re-designation underway: quarterly meetings include PTC, NJTA, PADOT, NJDOT, DRJTBC, FHWA, AASHTO, Consultant Managers, Local/Public Officials, NJSP

Bensalem Interchange Ramp Bridges

- Enlarging ramps to reduce tractor trailer rollovers
- Limited closures during construction
- Notice to proceed on 7/25/2016

Other Overhead Bridge Replacement w

- Hulmeville Road: bid awarded 1/3/17
- Street Road, Old Lincoln Highway, and RR Bridges
- Neshaminy Creek Bridge
- New Falls Road Bridge

Delaware River Bridge Emergency Repair

- Repairs completed 3/9/17
- LIDAR and a multitude of electronic sensors used to identify additional stress points affected by the shifting weight

Cashless Tolling

- Currently being expanded in the western part of the state

▶ **Delaware River Port Authority**

Mark Green, DRPA, provided construction brief overview of several upcoming projects.

- Betsy Ross Bridge: A repainting project will begin in late 2017 and take approximately 19 months. The bridge is also in the midst of a 2 year resurfacing project.
- Commodore Barry Bridge: A repainting project will begin in October 2017 and take approximately 2 years.
- Walt Whitman Bridge: A current project includes painting the suspension and towers and may include a lane closure. Improvements are being made to the toll plaza, roadways, and ramps.

▶ **Burlington County Bridge Commission**

Patrick Reilly, BCBC, provided a brief update of Burlington Bridges

- The Burlington-Bristol Bridge saw an increase of 4,000 vehicles per day during the Delaware River Bridge closure. Painting will continue on the bridge until next summer.
- The Tacony-Palmyra Bridge will undergo re-decking in August 2017 and have nighttime closures. Painting of the bridge will begin in the fall.

4. **New Business**

- ▶ Next Meeting Date will be June 12th, 2017, at DVRPC.

MEETING ATTENDEES:

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| 1. | Patrick Reilly | Burlington County Bridge Commission |
| 2. | Heather Martin | Chester County Planning Commission |
| 3. | Dan Whaland | Delaware County Planning Department |
| 4. | Karen Whitaker | Delaware County Planning Commission |
| 5. | Mark Green | Delaware River Port Authority |
| 6. | Clint Beck | Federal Highway |
| 7. | George Fleagle | Federal Highway |
| 8. | Matt Popek | Montgomery County Planning Commission |
| 9. | Jim Miller | Michael Baker |
| 10. | Mike Pilsbury | NJDOT |
| 11. | Saidul Islam | NJDOT |
| 12. | Jagdism Rana | NJDOT |
| 13. | Michael Phillips | PA Turnpike Commission |
| 14. | Manny Anastasiadis | PennDOT District - 6.0 |
| 15. | Jim Diamond | Philadelphia Police - Traffic |
| 16. | Patrick Callahan | Philadelphia Streets Department |
| 17. | Patricia Nuble | Philadelphia Streets Department |
| 18. | Steve Noll | TMA of Bucks County |
| 19. | Jesse Buerk | DVRPC |
| 20. | Paul Carafides | DVRPC |
| 21. | Chris King | DVRPC |
| 22. | Laurie Matkowski | DVRPC |
| 23. | Justin Neff | DVRPC |

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