

TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS TASK FORCE **MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

March 12, 2018

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chris King, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), welcomed members and thanked them for attending. Mr. King reminded attendees the

2. Two Minute Agency Reports

Each person in attendance introduced themselves and added any relevant ITS and operations updates from their agency. Highlights include:

- ▶ DVRPC: DVRPC is holding its 3rd Regional Traffic Incident Management Regional Conference on Wednesday, May 16th at Citizens Bank Ball Park.

3. 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 Sector A include:

- I-95, Section CPR – Cottman Avenue/ Princeton Interchange. 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.
- 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 and double decker SEPTA train cars and improvement to several parking lots. This fell under the purview of the Corridor Transportation Management Plan (TMP), implemented by PennDOT due to the number of construction projects along critical corridors in the region.
- I-95, Sector B – I-676 Interchange to Broad Street. Focus Areas include Penn’s Landing, as well as the CAP over I-95, Walt Whitman Bridge Interchange, PA 611/Sports Complex/Navy Yard. Study and Project Development began in 2015.
 - Planning for CAP began in 2016 and includes a cover of both I-95 and Columbus Blvd, an extension of South Street Bridge, and a waterfront trail. Final Design begins October 2018 and Construction begins 2021.

Other upcoming projects in the region include:

- I-95 at US 322 (limited design funding, CSX Bridge work to begin 2021)
- I-95/Scudder Falls Bridge (estimated completion 2021)
- I-95 at PA Turnpike Interchange
- Vine Street Expressway Bridges
- I-76 Advanced Traffic Management
- Chestnut Street Bridge over I-76

Jennifer Walsh, HDR, Inc., discussed the I-76 Viaduct Repairs. Project begins south of the Arsenal CSX Bridge and extends to Arch Street, encompassing 290 individual spans. Will include complete deck rehabilitation, as well as complete cleaning of drainage system.

- Project will take place 2019-2020 and require lane closures determined by number of stakeholders, including, but not limited to City of Philadelphia, DRPA, University City, SCSSD

- Closure restrictions:

Weekdays:

- 5 A.M → 9 P.M: No lane closures allowed
- 9 P.M → 11 P.M: 1 lane closure allowed
- 11 P.M → 5 A.M: Directional closure allowed

Weekend (extra hour):

- 9 P.M Friday → 5 A.M Monday: One lane closure allowed
- 11 P.M → 6 A.M: Overnight directional closure Friday & Saturday
- 11 P.M → 5 A.M: Overnight directional closure Sunday night

- Will require lane closures for seven consecutive weekends

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

Mike Pilsbury and Jagdish Rana, NJDOT, presented construction projects focusing on the southern portion of the state. There is significant work in the upcoming 2018 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 AI-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 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. Currently they are completing the prep work to launch Browning Road Bridge. The estimated completion date is for the summer 2020.

Contract #4 to include completion of I-76 / Route 42, I-295 northbound Ramp B and remainder of Ramp C and Ramp F. Scheduled to begin summer 2020 and be completed 2023.

Other NJDOT 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.

- Rt. 130 Raccoon Creek Bridge Replacement and Pavement Rehabilitation. Replacement of vertical lift bridge over Raccoon Creek; Addressing geometrical and safety deficiencies within the project limit. Estimated construction completion October 2019.
- I-295 – Route 168 to CR 537 (Marne Highway); Pavement preservation through HMA pavement repairs, micro-milling, slurry sealing and other related improvement. Construction March 2018 through August 2018.
- Route 42 Bridges over Timber Creek and Lower Landing Road; Bridge Deck Replacement and construction of median crossovers; construction started August 2017 with completion date December 2019.
- Route 73 and Ramp G, Bridge Replacement over US 130 (In Design)
- I-76 over Route 130 – Superstructure and deck replacement (In Design)
- The state has suspended its use of Variable Speed Advisory along stretches of I-295. Though implemented to warn travelers of downstream conditions, there were internal debates over the advisory's actual effectiveness. The distance between the signs and the queue beginning often varied, meaning commuters did not know when they were expected to adjust their speeds. NJIT study did show a small, but noticeable decrease in crashes and speed variation, two desirable outcomes of speed advisory.
- NJDOT is automating its Lane Closure Management System, allowing each step to be monitored and reviewed. Requests for closures will be sent electronically. Current Pilot Program on I-80. Funding provided by the federal government.

► ***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-295/276 Re-designation finalized, signage and public outreach continuing

Bensalem Interchange Ramp Bridges

- Improvement of ramp design to reduce tractor trailer rollovers

Other Overhead Bridge Replacement

- Hulmeville Road
- Street Road, Old Lincoln Highway, and RR Bridges
- Neshaminy Creek Bridge
- New Falls Road Bridge

Additional and Future Projects:

- Northeast Extension– MP A31-A37 Total Reconstruction to be completed 6-18-21
 - MP A37-A42 Total Reconstruction to be bid Fall 2020
 - MP 312-316 Total Reconstruction to be bid Fall 2019
- Section C Mainline: Total Reconstruction
- MP 331-351 (Not officially in design) – Part-Time Shoulder Use; Dynamic Lane Control; Variable Speed Limit; Queue Warning

► **Delaware River Port Authority**

Kevin Overton, DRPA, provided construction brief overview of several upcoming projects.

- Betsy Ross Bridge: A repainting project is underway and is part of the ongoing I-95 construction.
- Ben Franklin Bridge: Standard maintenance, including improvement for bike/ped access.
- Walt Whitman Bridge: Current project nearing completion includes painting the suspension and towers. Improvements are being made to the toll plaza, roadways, and ramps.
 - DRPA requested NJDOT explore the issue of continued hydroplaning on the New Jersey side of the bridge, where I-76 crosses Newton Creek. John Ward, DVRPC, believes those bridges are already included as upcoming TIP projects, but NJDOT assured DRPA it would investigate the issue and report back its findings.

► **Burlington County Bridge Commission**

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

- Burlington-Bristol Bridge painting to be completed December 2018. Steel structure repair to require nighttime closures on four continuous Thursdays beginning in March 2018.
- The Tacony-Palmyra Bridge construction taking place beneath the structure, resulting in very little traffic impact. NJDOT in the process of approving paint for the bridge; should be done within the month.

► **Montgomery County Planning Commission**

Matt Popek, MCPC, reported 3rd and Final Stage of Lafayette Street construction soon to begin. Construction schedule may shift from current plans to condense overall project time.

There will be a temporary bicycle detour along the Schuylkill River Trail during construction.

4. New Business

- Next Meeting Date will be June 18th, 2018 at DVRPC.

MEETING ATTENDEES:

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| 1. | Patrick Reilly | Burlington County Bridge Commission |
| 2. | Kevin Overton | Delaware River Port Authority |
| 3. | Matt Popek | Montgomery County Planning Commission |
| 4. | Jim Miller | Michael Baker |
| 5. | Jennifer Walsh | HDR, INC |
| 6. | Mike Pilsbury | NJDOT |
| 7. | Jagdism Rana | NJDOT |
| 8. | Dhrurik Patel | NJDOT |
| 9. | Michael Phillips | PA Turnpike Commission |
| 10. | Farooq Jan | PennDOT |
| 11. | Narayaha Vezaga | PennDOT |
| 12. | Jim Diamond | Philadelphia Police - Traffic |
| 13. | Patricia Nuble | Philadelphia Streets Department |
| 14. | Rich Montanez | Philadelphia Streets Department |
| 15. | Rich Brahler | Bucks County Planning Commission |
| 16. | Paul Carafides | DVRPC |
| 17. | Chris King | DVRPC |
| 18. | Elizabeth Schoonmaker | DVRPC |
| 19. | John Ward | DVRPC |
| 20. | Justin Neff | DVRPC |

DVRPC fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. DVRPC's website may be translated into Spanish, Russian, and Traditional Chinese online by visiting www.dvrpc.org. Publications and other public documents can be made available in alternative languages or formats, if requested. For more information, please call (215) 238-2871.