

Planning Matters:
Be part of the



**REGIONAL
CONVERSATION**





dvrpc's **MISSION**

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) is dedicated to uniting the region's elected officials, planning professionals, and the public with the common vision of **making a great region even greater. Shaping the way we live, work, and play,** DVRPC builds consensus on improving transportation, promoting smart growth, protecting the environment, and enhancing the economy. We serve a diverse region of nine counties: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia in Pennsylvania; and Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Mercer in New Jersey. DVRPC is the official metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Greater Philadelphia Region... **leading the way to a better future.**

Who We Are

DVRPC plans for the growth and development of the bistate region. We were created in 1965 under a compact between Pennsylvania and New Jersey; the legislatures worked together to define our structure, authority, purpose, and administrative procedures. Under federal laws requiring the formation of a metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for urban areas with a population of more than 50,000, DVRPC was subsequently designated as the MPO for the nine-county Greater Philadelphia/Delaware Valley region. An MPO is a regional entity responsible for transportation planning and approval of federal transportation funding for the region. While maintaining this traditional role, DVRPC also engages in environmental and community planning, economic development, and serves as a resource for

regional data. We facilitate special meetings, initiate new partnerships, and support local municipalities with outreach and assistance.

To effectively use federal transportation dollars in each of the region's nine counties, DVRPC works with a variety of local and regional entities. These groups include the Pennsylvania and New Jersey departments of transportation, community affairs and environmental protection agencies, the federal government, county and municipal officials, and regional transportation providers.

How We Are Funded

Financial support for our activities comes primarily from federal transportation funding through the Pennsylvania and New Jersey departments of transportation. Additional financial resources are provided by county, city, operating agencies, grants, and private-sector funds.

How We Are Governed

All activities are directed by an 18-member board, which establishes regional policy, defines committee duties, and adopts the annual Work Program. A 10-member executive committee oversees general operations and fiscal matters.

Additional non-voting Board participants include SEPTA, NJTransit, DRPA/PATCO, and a number of state and federal agency representatives. Planning and service functions are split among the Executive Office, the Planning Division, and Administration. DVRPC staff is comprised of transportation planners and engineers, land use and environmental planners, technology and mapping specialists, and other professionals who provide technical assistance on a variety of issues facing the region.

What We Do

DVRPC's main products are publications, studies, data, and mapping, which are completed in order to identify planning needs and recommend future action. We use state-of-the-art planning tools and techniques, objective and professional analysis, and a broad base of collaboration and public participation to effectively direct the region's future development.

All of our publications and resources are available on our website:
www.dvrpc.org

Examples of our activities include:

- Conducting studies of heavy or congested traffic corridors to identify needed transportation improvements.
- Linking land use, transportation, and economic development options throughout the region, and assisting local governments and communities with implementation of recommendations.
- Planning for new and upgraded highway, freight, and transit facilities to ensure the efficient movement of people and goods.
- Conserving regional and local open space, and environmental planning.
- Sponsoring meetings to educate the public on topics such as air quality issues and sustainability.



Project Process

- 1** Planning partners come to DVRPC because they need a study done.
- 2** The DVRPC Board approves the study as a regional priority.
- 3** DVRPC staff gathers resources and collects data.
- 4** DVRPC staff records all findings and writes a summary or report.
- 5** DVRPC makes recommendations to carry forward to implementation.

dvrpc's **LONG-RANGE PLAN**

As the Greater Philadelphia region's MPO, DVRPC has a federally mandated responsibility to develop a regional plan with at least a 20-year timeframe that includes forecasts of population, employment, land use, and travel trends, and determines how federal transportation dollars are to be spent. The current Long-Range Plan was developed through extensive public outreach, technical research, and coordination with other agencies. **It provides a vision of the region's future growth and development; identifies strategies to achieve regional goals; provides guidance and direction for municipal, county, and state agencies to make infrastructure and conservation investments; and serves as the foundation for developing the region's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).**

In the Long-Range Plan, DVRPC identifies four overarching, interdependent principles that guide all of the Commission's work.

Manage Growth and Protect the Environment:

Land can be used efficiently through preserving open space and historic resources, improving water and air quality, and increasing local food production and distribution.

Create Livable Communities:

Greater Philadelphia's 120+ Centers provide a focal point for future development. DVRPC aims to create livable communities by promoting accessible and affordable housing, enhancing community design, investing in parks and recreational opportunities, and promoting green infrastructure.

Build the Economy:

Making the region more energy-efficient, supporting key economic sectors, enhancing the climate for business growth, and focusing on educational attainment and workforce development will help the region increase innovation and new business formation, as well as expand our connections to the global economy.

Establish a Modern, Multimodal Transportation System:

A safe, secure, and efficient multimodal transportation system that supports the other core principles can provide mobility options for all residents of the region. Rebuilding and preserving the system, as well as improving its operation and enhancing its capacity, is a key challenge.

Federal law requires the Plan to be updated every four years. DVRPC encourages public participation and engagement in the planning process.

Information on the Plan can be found at [**www.dvrpc.org/LongRangePlan.**](http://www.dvrpc.org/LongRangePlan)

dvrpc's **TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)**

The TIP is an agreed-upon list of priority projects, for which federal funds are anticipated, in addition to non-federally funded projects that are regionally significant. And while not a federal requirement, the DVRPC TIP also lists state-funded capital projects. This program enables the DVRPC Board to select and prioritize the many transportation-related projects proposed for the region, while maximizing the allocation and use of available dollars. **The list is multimodal; in addition to the more traditional bridge, highway, and public transit projects, it also includes bicycle, pedestrian, signal, and freight projects.**

The DVRPC TIPs contain over 300 projects in Pennsylvania and more than 100 projects in New Jersey. The TIP lists specific projects and documents the anticipated schedule and cost for each project phase. Inclusion of a project phase in the TIP means that it is seriously expected to be implemented during the TIP time period. The TIP covers a four-year period and is updated every other year by state, on an alternating basis. The TIP may be amended after it is adopted under the provisions of federal law and is financially constrained to the

amount of funds that are expected to be available.

The public and other interest groups have the opportunity to comment on the Draft TIP before it is officially adopted by the DVRPC Board. DVRPC conducts a 30-day public comment period and holds meetings to allow the public an opportunity to present comments about the process and projects to state, county, and transit agencies, as well as DVRPC staff. Monthly TIP amendments at the Board are also open to public comment.

An interactive project mapping tool and estimated project costs and schedules, can be found at **www.dvrpc.org/TIP** along with program descriptions, explanations of various fund sources, and digital versions of the Pennsylvania and New Jersey TIP documents.

How Does the TIP Relate to the Long-Range Plan?

Regionally significant projects must be drawn from the Long-Range Plan and all projects in the TIP must be consistent with the goals of the plan. The Long-Range Plan, required by federal law, is the document that helps direct transportation and land use decisions over a minimum 20-year horizon. The plan presents an extensive list of policies and strategies, as well as the actions required to carry them out. The TIP represents the translation of transportation recommendations from DVRPC's current Long-Range Plan into a short-term program of improvements.

dvrpc's

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, TITLE VI, AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAM

An integral part of the regional planning process is public participation. Since the 1970s, DVRPC has maintained a continuous forum for the public to participate in the regional planning process. This forum has taken various forms throughout the years to respond to the outreach needs of the public and the Commission. DVRPC's current ongoing forum for public involvement is the Public Participation Task Force (PPTF).

The mission of the PPTF is to provide ongoing access to the regional planning and decision-making process, to review timely issues, to serve as a conduit for DVRPC information to organizations and communities across the region, and to assist the Commission in implementing public outreach strategies.

DVRPC believes that planning must be done with the involvement and for the benefit of all of the region's residents.

The Commission is guided by federal Title VI and environmental justice (EJ) mandates, and strives to not only meet these mandates, but to create an overall transparent, inclusive planning process. DVRPC is committed to making Title VI and EJ a part of our planning process, integrated in all our programs and plans, and a guide for public participation efforts, including our EJ Work Group. DVRPC's Title VI and EJ work are outlined in DVRPC's *Title VI*

Compliance Plan, as well as Environmental Justice at DVRPC.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act states that "no person in the United States, shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

DVRPC is also guided by other nondiscrimination mandates, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Executive Order 12898 on EJ mandates that all people must receive fair treatment

and meaningful involvement regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, income, or education level in environmental decision-making. EJ programs promote the protection of human health and the environment, empowerment via public participation, and the dissemination of relevant information to inform and educate affected communities.

Diverse public involvement is a dynamic and ongoing process that is essential to meeting the future needs of all citizens in the Delaware Valley. No good government can be achieved without the consideration, cooperation, and input of citizens throughout this region.



staying in the **LOOP**

Through a constructive dialogue, planners, decision-makers, and the public can share their opinions and mutually shape a vision for a neighborhood, community, county, or the entire region. **Public outreach is an integral part of DVRPC, and there are many opportunities to participate in the regional planning process.**

Most of DVRPC's planning programs have an associated committee that meets to discuss timely issues surrounding a given topic and hear from experts. The committees advise the Board on regional issues, thus ensuring that varied perspectives are represented in the planning process. **All committee meetings are open to the public to attend. Meeting dates are published in the DVRPC newsletter, in general mailings and emails, and at www.dvrpc.org.**

Throughout the year, there are many opportunities for the public to learn, engage, and provide feedback on a variety of topics, including EJ and issues of interest to students. Join us in shaping the region's future!

What We Can Do For You

DVRPC produces a series of reports, studies, and surveys on regional topics, including transportation, land use, housing, economic development, and environmental issues.

In addition, we are a resource for census and demographic information, traffic counts, maps, and aerial photography. DVRPC utilizes a Geographic Information System (GIS) as an important planning tool for data collection and storage, and analysis and presentation. GIS allows planners to view and query spatial data, perform advanced analysis to discover relationships, patterns, and trends, and effectively present information to decision-makers and the public. DVRPC also assists municipalities by offering implementation guides for regional plans, grant programs, and other tools.

More information, including an application for the Public Participation Task Force, can be found on our website at **www.dvrpc.org** and by emailing **public_affairs@dvrpc.org**, or by calling **215.592.1800**.



How to Get DVRPC Products

DVRPC offers a variety of publications, data, maps, aerial photographs, and other services for the nine-county region through both our Resource Center and website. DVRPC publications can be translated into alternative languages or formats, if requested. A wide array of computer-generated maps of the region are also available for purchase, or can be viewed online. Using GIS and Computer Assisted Mapping (CAM), DVRPC has been able to prepare a wealth of information on conditions and trends in the Delaware Valley.

A listing of the Commission's publications, maps, photography, and related costs are available via mail, through our website at **www.dvrpc.org**, or by contacting **215.238.2828** for our Resource Center, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Watch for Public Notice

To ensure that the public has ample opportunity to take part in the policy-making process, DVRPC is committed to providing complete information, timely notification, and full public access to key decisions. DVRPC's Board meeting schedule is published annually in New Jersey and Pennsylvania newspapers and is available on our website. Comments on any Board item can be made online, by mail, or at the meeting.

On the rare occasion that a meeting is cancelled due to inclement weather, a recorded message is played on DVRPC's general reception number and posted on the website.

At least 30 days prior to the adoption of a regional plan, TIP, or major amendment, a legal notice is placed in Pennsylvania and New Jersey newspapers and on the DVRPC website. This notice summarizes the document or amendment, and indicates where copies can be obtained for review, as well as where to send comments. Public meetings, information sessions, or workshops to receive public input are held prior to the adoption of any major plan, TIP, or amendment. Notices are published in the newspapers at least 10 days prior to such meetings. A record of comments and responses received is included with the final document.

learn more at www.dvrpc.org

Speakers Bureau

If your organization has any questions regarding transportation and planning issues affecting the Delaware Valley, we may have someone with the answer! Members of DVRPC's staff, which is composed of professionals in a variety of planning and transportation fields, are available to speak at your organization's meeting on a variety of topics, from bicycle and transit planning, to environmental planning, to long-range planning for the region.

For more information, please contact **215.592.1800**.

Visit Our Website

DVRPC's website, www.dvrpc.org, offers a wealth of information, including a Commission calendar that highlights all upcoming committee meetings, public meetings, and other events. The website may be translated into multiple languages online. Information on our website includes public notices of upcoming projects and programs, media releases, and additional information on public participation, Title VI, EJ, and the Public Participation Task Force. Information pertaining to DVRPC's Planning division is included on the DVRPC website, with pages devoted to specific projects and initiatives.

The website is also an excellent resource for viewing publications and products that are published by DVRPC, as well as other region-related information, such as census data. In addition, links to staff, board members, and member governments are also available.

Subscribe to Our Newsletter

In an effort to be more sustainable, *DVRPC News* is available as a paperless newsletter. The newsletter is sent out via email on a monthly basis. This allows us to share news with you in a timely fashion, while producing less waste.

To subscribe to the newsletter, visit www.dvrpc.org.

DVRPC groups of interest to me:

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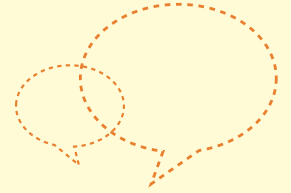
Get involved!

Please email
public_affairs@dvrpc.org
or call 215.592.1800.

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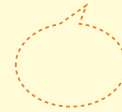
Handwriting practice lines consisting of 20 horizontal dashed blue lines.



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Leading the way
to a better future.



Connect With Us!



@DVRPC | www.dvrpc.org

DVRPC uses social media to share timely news, information, publications, and regional events. This makes it easier for citizens, organizations, and those interested in planning for the Delaware Valley region to receive up-to-date information.

For More Information

If you would like to know more about DVRPC or have your name added to our mailing list, please contact us at public_affairs@dvrpc.org.

For all other information, visit www.dvrpc.org or call **215.592.1800**.

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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
State of New Jersey
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
New Jersey Department of Transportation
Pennsylvania Governor's Policy Office
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
Bucks County
Burlington County
Chester County
Camden County
Delaware County
Gloucester County
Montgomery County
Mercer County
City of Chester
City of Camden
City of Philadelphia
City of Trenton

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 215.592.1800 or email public_affairs@dvrpc.org.

OUR REGION,
your voice!
GET INVOLVED.



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