



# DVRPC NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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PHOTO (LEFT): Neal Peirce, Chairman, CitiStates Group, answers questions from a DVRPC Board Member following his keynote address. PHOTO (RIGHT): DVRPC Director of Planning Richard Bickel, Plansmart NJ President Dianne Brake, and Carl Dranoff of Dranoff Properties addressed the topics of smart growth, land use and development practices in the region.

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## Board Retreat Brings Together Region's Leaders to Ponder the Future

**D**VRPC's 22nd Annual Board Retreat, held in late September at The Hub at The Cira Centre in Philadelphia, served as a starting point for discussions about the Delaware Valley's goals for transportation, land use, the environment and the economy.

Focusing on *Connections*, DVRPC's Long-Range Plan, attendees considered ways to impact decisions that will spell either a sustainable future or one that results in a lack of funding for local transportation options, diminished open space and severe environmental impacts.

The Plan presents four challenges, including:

- Creating a regional funding stream of \$100 million per year for transportation improvements;
- Growing the region's 100 development centers;
- Building a more energy-efficient economy as we reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent; and
- Protecting 500,000 acres of open space, natural areas and farmland.

The day's tone was set by keynote speaker, Neal Peirce, syndicated columnist and Chairman of the CitiStates Group. Peirce's remarks were particularly pertinent, focusing on the importance of regionalism. His remarks were followed by a series of speakers who addressed each of the challenges listed above.

This year's retreat served as an introduction to the 2035 Plan and its goals, and was followed by public workshops in each of the region's nine counties. For information about DVRPC's long-range plan, visit [www.dvrpc.org/connections](http://www.dvrpc.org/connections).

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Peter Bell, Chairman, Metropolitan Council of Minneapolis, discussed his region's transportation funding challenges and how Minneapolis was able to establish a funding stream for local transportation projects.



Molly Morrison, President of Natural Lands Trust, spoke about her group's open space activities, while Susan Craft, Executive Director of the New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee, discussed the status of agriculture efforts in New Jersey.



Speaking about building an energy-efficient economy were Robert Graff, DVRPC Manager of Economic Analysis and Coordination; Adam Zellner, Policy Director for the State of New Jersey; and Steve Nelson, Director of Policy for Montgomery County.



## DVRPC Announces \$1 Million for Projects Along Philadelphia's Rivers

Local leaders, planners and representatives from a number of community organizations gathered at Penn Treaty Park in Philadelphia on October 27 to recognize the recipients of the Take Me to the River grants. Speaking at the press conference were DVRPC Executive Director Barry Seymour; Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter; Schuylkill River Development Corporation President Joseph Syrnick; and New Kensington CDC Executive Director Sandy Salzman.

Administered by DVRPC and funded by the William Penn Foundation, Take Me to the River grants support planning, programming and capital projects along the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers. It is an opportunity for neighborhood groups and nonprofit organizations to further support local revitalization efforts while implementing larger waterfront plans.

Eligible projects included, but were not limited to, capital projects, such as riverfront trails or lighting; planning projects, such as feasibility studies and technical assistance to neighborhoods; and programming, including festivals and ecotourism.



"Philadelphia has a number of untapped and underutilized resources, with the Schuylkill and Delaware rivers high on top of that list," Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter said.

"We must return those two rivers to their rightful positions as key sources of recreation and natural beauty."

Seven of the projects will impact the Schuylkill River, while six will impact the Delaware River. In all, there are six capital projects, five planning projects and two programming events. Grants range from \$25,000 to \$125,000.



## Grant Awardees

**\$100,000** Schuylkill River Development Corp. for trail system on the DuPont Crescent section of the Schuylkill Banks, linking Bartram's Gardens & Fort Mifflin

**\$75,000** Delaware River City Corp. to make structural repairs to pier & install railing & grass landscaping at Lardner's Point Park

**\$125,000** East Falls Development Corp. for improvements, including a restaurant & trail house amenities to the Bathey House at East Falls Gateway

**\$100,000** New Kensington CDC to provide signage, lighting & public art in & around Penn Treaty Park

**\$75,000** Philadelphia Mural Arts Program for Digital Arts Festivals for Schuylkill "River Room" at main post office

**\$100,000** Northern Liberties Neighbors Association to implement linear park along Spring Garden Street

**\$75,000** Delaware River City Corp. for final design of construction of 1.6 miles of off-road trail along Delaware Avenue & Allegheny Avenue in Port Richmond as part of East Coast Greenway

**\$83,000** Pennsylvania Environmental Council for final design elements for 58th Street Connector Greenway, connecting Schuylkill River with Cobbs Creek

**\$50,000** Schuylkill River Development Corp. for feasibility study for pedestrian bridge accessing west bank of Schuylkill River & Bartram's Garden

**\$49,000** Delaware River City Corp. to move wetland concept plan for Lardner's Point Park into final design & to complete project permitting

**\$80,000** John Bartram Association for planning & design of Schuylkill Trail section at Bartram's Garden

**\$25,000** New Kensington CDC for Wednesdays on the Waterfront, an eight-week summer concert series for two years at Penn Treaty Park

**\$63,000** Pennsylvania Horticultural Society for Spring Shad Festival at Penn Treaty Park & for Fall River City Festival



## The Freight Plan Showcase:

### A Guided Journey through the Delaware Valley Supply Chain



FREIGHT PLAN SHOWCASE

In October 2008, DVRPC hosted the first-ever Freight Plan Showcase, giving participants an opportunity to see how goods travel through the region's freight supply chain. The event consisted of 11 supply chain stations with

interactive presentations and exhibits, and brought together individuals from all steps of the commodity flow process: planners, transportation and port officials, security officials, members of DVRPC's Freight Advisory Committee and citizens.

**Supply Chain = the system of organizing people, technology, activities, information and resources involved in moving a product or service from supplier to customer.**

For more on freight planning at DVRPC, see [www.dvrpc.org/transportation/multimodal/freight](http://www.dvrpc.org/transportation/multimodal/freight)

## The Commission Recommends Ways to Improve SEPTA

Following recommendations by Governor Rendell's Transportation Funding and Reform Commission, DVRPC studied strategies to improve the speed and efficiency and reduce costs of SEPTA's bus, subway, trolley and regional rail service. *Speeding Up SEPTA*, a report prepared in partnership with SEPTA, provided specific recommendations on how to improve efficiencies, stakeholder buy-in and cost effectiveness of future efforts.

The findings of this report will inform the new Transit First initiative in Philadelphia, which is a partnership between the city and SEPTA to prioritize people movement—and subsequently transit movement—over automobile movement.

To view the report, go to [www.dvrpc.org/asp/pubs/reports/08066.pdf](http://www.dvrpc.org/asp/pubs/reports/08066.pdf)



## Staff Participates in Evesham Energy Summit

Following DVRPC's October 6 and 7 Planning for Sustainability: Green Codes and Planning workshop, which included 14 presenters and more than 100 participants, DVRPC was invited to participate in the Township of Evesham 2008 Energy Summit.

Planning Analyst Evangeline Linkous shared with Evesham officials examples of sustainable zoning and planning efforts from around the region, and provided an overview of how local governments can use development codes to promote use of renewable energy resources, such as wind and sun.

## US 422 Public Open House Meetings

**U**S 422 is possibly the single most important and fastest growing suburban expressway in the Philadelphia region, and an integral part of the interregional highway network. Despite progress with growth management, and better land use planning and transit expansion, the US 422 Corridor continues to attract population, commercial growth and sprawl.

DVRPC is working on a multi-modal Master Plan, an integrated and comprehensive approach to planning for the future mobility needs of the corridor, including roadway (lane) capacity, interchange design and capacity, connecting roadway improvements, transit alternatives, transit connections and future land use plans.

**DVRPC is hosting two public open houses in mid-February to gather input on the US 422 Transportation Master Plan. Details about the meetings will be posted on [www.422coalition.com/projects.htm](http://www.422coalition.com/projects.htm) and in local newspapers.**

**For more information about this project, contact Jerry Coyne, DVRPC Manager of Transportation Studies, at 215.238.2850 or [jcoyne@dvrpc.org](mailto:jcoyne@dvrpc.org).**



*To learn more about Classic Towns, go to [www.classictowns.org](http://www.classictowns.org)*

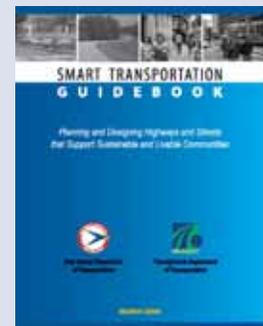
### Classic Towns Program Recognized by Philadelphia City Council

**I**n October 2008, the Philadelphia City Council passed a resolution recognizing Manayunk and Overbrook Farms as participants in DVRPC's Classic Towns of Greater Philadelphia program. Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr. invited DVRPC staff and representatives from Manayunk and Overbrook Farms to attend the meeting and speak about the program before City Council. Classic Towns is a marketing program that touts 11 of Philadelphia's older suburbs and urban neighborhoods as great places to live, work and play.

## DVRPC Receives Top Honor from AMPO

*The Guidebook and an Executive Summary are available for free download at [www.dvrpc.org/asp/pubs/reports/08030A.pdf](http://www.dvrpc.org/asp/pubs/reports/08030A.pdf)*

**D**VRPC was one of seven organizations to receive an award at the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) Annual Conference in October 2008. DVRPC won the National Award for Outstanding Achievement in Metropolitan Transportation Planning, for its *Smart Transportation Guidebook*. DVRPC worked with the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Departments of Transportation to create this report, in order to prepare common planning tools and design guidelines that could be used in both states.



The Guidebook was developed to help agencies, local governments, developers and others plan and design highways that fit within the existing and planned context of the communities through which they pass.

# Building a Better Tomorrow



## CONNECTIONS

REGIONAL PLAN FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

It's human nature to have a short attention span. Why think about tomorrow or next week when all sorts of pressing issues occur each day? And why consider the more distant future, such as 2035? Because a vision takes time to develop, DVRPC is now working on *Connections: The Regional Plan for a Sustainable Future*.



The Commission has undertaken extensive public involvement for the long-range plan for 2035. DVRPC launched an online survey last spring, resulting in more than 5,000 responses.

Focus groups were held during the summer to ascertain whether people value the goals of the plan and whether their behavior would support these goals. And during the fall, DVRPC hosted nine county workshops, gathering the input of more than 500 attendees.

The focus of the comments gathered is on the four challenges that the region faces in the coming years. They include:

- **The Transportation Challenge:** Create a regional funding stream of \$100 million per year for transportation improvements
- **The Land Use Challenge:** Grow the region's 100 development centers
- **The Economic Challenge:** Build a more energy-efficient economy as we reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent
- **The Environmental Challenge:** Protect 500,000 acres of open space, natural areas and farmland

After assessing all of this input, DVRPC will examine two "What-If" scenarios which include "Recentralization" and "Sprawl." Recentralization assumes that population and jobs will once again move into the region's centers, while sprawl would see an acceleration of growth and employment in outlying areas. These two extremes spell the difference between mobility and congestion, clean air and pollution, a desirable quality of life and diminishing parklands and open space.



Of particular concern in the scenarios is the environmental justice impact. Environmental justice (EJ) is an assessment used to mitigate potential impacts of the planning process and projects on defined minority groups, persons with disabilities, and lower-income populations in the Delaware Valley.

DVRPC recognizes eight degrees of disadvantage, which are defined as exceeding the regional average for each of the following population groups:

- non-Hispanic minorities;
- Hispanic minority;
- elderly;
- physically disabled;
- female-headed households with child;
- carless households;
- low-income households; and
- limited English proficiency.

As we move forward toward Plan adoption in June 2009, DVRPC will offer additional opportunities for public

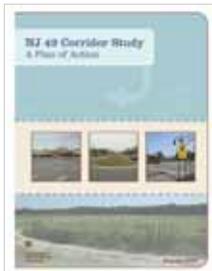
comment and will issue subsequent issues of *The Link*, the newsletter that brings you up-to-date information on the Connections Plan. Look for your copy when you receive *DVRPC News*.

# DVRPC Teaming with PTV Vision on Transportation Modeling

To learn more about DVRPC's transportation modeling, visit [www.dvrpc.org/transportation/longrange/modeling.htm](http://www.dvrpc.org/transportation/longrange/modeling.htm)

DVRPC has chosen PTV Vision Suite, a product of PTV America Inc., as the new software platform for the regional travel model that is used to plan the transportation infrastructure for the entire Philadelphia region. This is the first step in a three-year project to upgrade and improve the regional transportation model. In the coming months, the existing regional model will be migrated to PTV's VISUM package by DVRPC staff and its modeling consultant firm, Cambridge Systematics, with PTV as a subconsultant.

Since the 1960s, DVRPC planners have used the transportation model to forecast travel volumes, market shares for different modes of transportation, impacts from land use and population changes and emissions of air pollutants. The model is maintained by DVRPC's staff, but also used by consultants under DVRPC's guidance. Important requirements of the model are compliance with federal guidelines for project analysis and transportation funding, the continuous and consistent update of short-term and long-term transportation plans and air quality estimates.



## Study Offers Recommendations on Improving NJ 42

Route 42 in New Jersey has become a highly congested roadway due to rapid suburban development. DVRPC recently published a report, *NJ 42 Corridor Study: A Plan of Action*, which analyzed the land use, environmental and transportation infrastructure needs of the corridor. The study offers long-term context-sensitive solutions to improve traffic mobility and safety, while protecting the environment. Recommendations include improvements to access management, the road network, signal timing, pedestrian facilities and amenities, and transit facilities.

To view the report, visit [www.dvrpc.org/asp/pubs/reports/08046.pdf](http://www.dvrpc.org/asp/pubs/reports/08046.pdf)

# TIP FACTS

A brand new feature has been added to the DVRPC TIP Search and On-line Mapping Web application! Powered by Google, the application now displays significant project status data that can be used to track the progress of specific projects in the FY09 TIP for both New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

The "PRS" (Project Reporting System) link for NJDOT status data for the NJ TIP and the "Milestones" link for PennDOT status data for the PA TIP provide information such as phase cost, initiation, authorizing and completion dates. This important data can be viewed by going to the DVRPC Google Web application located at <http://www.dvrpc.org/transportation/capital/TIP.htm>, selecting a specific project for review, and clicking the "View PRS" link for the New Jersey TIP, or the "Project Milestone" link for the Pennsylvania TIP.

**TIP Facts is a regular feature in DVRPC News that will provide you with tidbits of information about the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Check out each issue for a new fact about the TIP!**



## DVRPC Hosts Transportation Safety Symposium for Legislators and Advocates in NJ

**M**otor vehicle crashes cost New Jersey residents approximately \$9.3 billion each year. In 2007, 719 men, women and children lost their lives on roadways in the state. The severity of these statistics has led to a number of organizations and stakeholders joining together to promote safety and to develop policies aimed at reducing the frequency of crashes, regardless of their causes.

During this past summer, New Jersey state legislators gathered with state, regional and local agencies, transportation advocates, and concerned citizens to examine transportation safety and what we need to do to further this important effort. Serving as host for the New Jersey Transportation Safety Legislative Symposium, DVRPC engaged New Jersey's legislators in discussions about future collaboration and legislation to prevent transportation-related deaths and injuries. Held at the Mercer County Community College Conference Center in West Windsor, New Jersey, the event drew more than 100 participants.

Opening the session were Pam Fischer, New Jersey Governor's Representative and Director of the New Jersey Department of Highway Traffic Safety (NJDOT), and Bill Elliott, Transportation Safety Advocate and Founder of the HERO Campaign for Designated Drivers®, who served as the keynote speaker. A series of presentations followed with speakers including Bill Margaretta, President of NJ Safety Council; Laura Dean-Mooney, National President, MADD; Debbie Kingsland, Project Engineer, NJDOT; and Captain Warren Shakespeare, New Jersey State Police. A legislative panel followed, with speakers including Senator Jim Whelan (2nd Legislative District), Assemblyman Joseph Vas (19th Legislative District), Assemblywoman Elease Evans (35th Legislative District), and Andrew Hendry, Chief of Policy and Legislation for Majority Leader and Senator Stephen M. Sweeney (2nd Legislative District).

Partnering with DVRPC in this symposium were the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization, the New Jersey Department of Transportation, the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety, the Automobile Association of America, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the Federal Highway Administration and the Greater Mercer Transportation Management Association.

*For more information about DVRPC's safety initiatives, visit [www.dvrpc.org/transportation/safety](http://www.dvrpc.org/transportation/safety)*

## Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Nears Completion

**D**VRPC is nearing completion of an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions for the nine counties of the Greater Philadelphia region.

The completed inventory will help inform decisions about a regional climate change action planning process for regional and local policies to reduce emissions. DVRPC expects to kick off this effort in 2009.

The inventory and forecast will be allocated to each county and municipality in order to assist municipal and county inventory efforts, allowing those efforts to focus on inventorying emissions due to government operation.

The inventory will be available on the DVRPC website via [www.dvrpc.org/climate.htm](http://www.dvrpc.org/climate.htm) when it is completed.

This work is being carried out in close coordination with municipal, county, state, and federal-level inventory and forecasting efforts, as well as with national organizations such as ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability and the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

*To learn more about this initiative, please contact Rob Graff, Manager, Office of Economic Analysis and Coordination, at 215.238.2826 or [rgraff@dvrpc.org](mailto:rgraff@dvrpc.org)*

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Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission



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