



# DVRPC NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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## DVRPC Collaborates with PennDOT and NJDOT on Smart Transportation

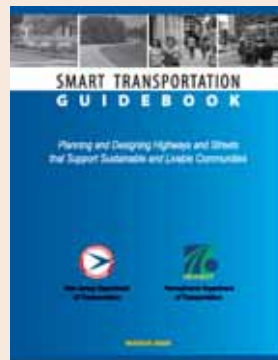
**T**ransportation officials cannot always solve congestion by building more, wider and faster state roadways. There will never be enough financial resources to supply the endless demand for capacity due to sprawling land development. Smart Transportation is a practice that can help solve this issue, through better integration of land use and transportation planning.

DVRPC joined with PennDOT and NJDOT on this topic and created a Smart Transportation Guidebook to help agencies, local governments and developers design roadways that fit within the existing and planned context of the communities in our region.

The Smart Transportation Guidebook is intended to guide the development of non-limited access roads as context-sensitive highways, to create transportation facilities that work well for all users, are affordable, and support smart growth community planning tools.

The guidebook includes detailed design guidelines that link land use context to the transportation context, and addresses such issues as lane width, parking lanes, shoulder width, bike lanes, medians, travel lanes, sidewalk widths and buffer areas.

The guidelines in the book can be used not only in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, but also across the nation. The guidebook is the winner of the prestigious FHWA / FTA 2008 Transportation Planning Excellence Award.



**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)**



## Barry Seymour Accepts Governor's Award

**O**n May 15, 2008, DVRPC's Executive Director, Barry Seymour, was honored with a Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence. The award was presented at the Local Government Day Awards Ceremony in Harrisburg, PA. Seymour was honored for being a tireless advocate for regional, county and local government planning in Pennsylvania since joining the Commission in 1990. During his time at DVRPC, Seymour has instituted the first municipal grant program for revitalization of urban neighborhoods and older suburban communities, spearheaded the Pennsylvania and New Jersey Smart Transportation initiative, and is leading a regional planning program to address climate change.

**PHOTO:** Left to Right: The Honorable Dennis Yablonsky, Secretary, PA Department of Community and Economic Development; DVRPC Executive Director Barry Seymour; The Honorable Catherine Baker Knoll, PA Lt. Governor; & Fred Reddig, Executive Director, Governor's Center for Local Government Services

# Citizens Share Their Vision for the Region



## CONNECTIONS

REGIONAL PLAN FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

**R**esults of *Connections: The Regional Plan for a Sustainable Future* public opinion survey are now available. This survey was the first component of public outreach for DVRPC's update of the region's long-range plan. Over 5,000 people completed the survey, which was available online for nearly three months from late-January until mid-April 2008. The survey consisted of eight multiple choice questions on land-use, transportation, and the environment. The responses show strong regional support for growth management and investing in improvements to the existing transportation system. A number of questions had options directly related to the policies set forth in the *Destination 2030 Long-Range Plan*. Each of these options received very positive response rates, exhibiting support for the *Destination 2030 Long-Range Plan* goals and core planning principles.

For a full summary of the survey results, please see the **Connections website at [www.dvrpc.org/connections](http://www.dvrpc.org/connections)**

Since the survey was conducted on-line, the results cannot be considered statistically valid. However, the survey is a valuable exercise because it allows thousands of people who are interested in the future of the region to express their views and to be involved in the long-range planning process.

DVRPC conducted a statistically valid telephone survey of more than 700 households in the region in 2005 as part of the development of the current *Destination 2030 Long-Range Plan*. Both surveys asked identical or parallel questions with similar results.

The survey results will be used to draft a vision statement for the region. The vision will guide regional stakeholders in developing goals and objectives for the Delaware Valley in 2035, and later in identifying policies and strategies that can be used to achieve them. Additional public involvement will include focus groups and county listening sessions throughout the next six months.

<b>What do you like most about the Delaware Valley region?</b> <i>(Choose up to 3)</i>	Numerous cultural and historic sites	58%
	Walkable downtowns with viable business districts	46%
	Accessible public parks and outdoor recreational amenities	34%

<b>What do you believe are the most important issues facing the Delaware Valley region?</b> <i>(Choose up to 3)</i>	Improving transportation infrastructure	49%
	Revitalizing urban centers and towns	42%
	Curbing sprawl	41%

<b>What is the most effective way to manage future development?</b> <i>(Choose up to 2)</i>	Place mixed-use development (i.e. housing, office space and stores) near train stations or transit stops	52%
	Implement more effective zoning and design controls	41%

<b>What do you think is the most important transportation need in our region today?</b> <i>(Choose up to 3)</i>	Repair our existing roads, bridges, and rail system	50%
	Provide more travel options (i.e. transit, biking, walking)	47%
	Reduce traffic congestion	46%

For more information about the Long-Range Plan, contact Mike Boyer, Manager of Long-Range Planning and Congestion Management, at 215.238.2848 or [mboyer@dvrpc.org](mailto:mboyer@dvrpc.org)



**PHOTO:** Left to Right: Joseph Hoefel, Montgomery County Commissioner; Rina Cutler, Deputy Mayor for Transportation and Utilities, City of Philadelphia; Zoe Robertson, Senior Project Manager, Greater Valley Forge Transportation Management Association (TMA); Bill Rickett, Executive Director, Bucks County TMA; Mike Herron, Executive Director, TMA of Chester County; Richard Burrfield, Chief Financial Officer, SEPTA; Barry Seymour, Executive Director, DVRPC; Peggy Schmidt, Executive Director, The Partnership TMA; Len Lebowitz, Philadelphia Unemployment Project

## DVRPC Announces Almost \$8 Million for Transportation Services for Low Income, Reverse Commuters



To help ease access to jobs for low-income workers and reverse commuters, DVRPC approved almost \$8 million in funding for the Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) program. The announcement was made at a press conference in March 2008, at the Market East SEPTA station. Representatives from DVRPC, SEPTA, PennDOT, the Federal Transit Administration, the region's Transportation Management Associations, and elected officials attended the event.

The JARC program is intended to help fund transportation services and supportive activities that facilitate access to jobs for welfare recipients and lower income persons, as well as reverse commute trips for the general population. It supplements the region's public transportation system, such as expanding early-morning and evening services and

providing shuttles to/from transit stations to employment sites.

"The Job Access and Reverse Commute Program allows people to get to work and provides new opportunities by expanding connections in the region," said Barry Seymour, DVRPC Executive Director.

"This funding provides transportation for about 5,000 commuters each week to over 300 employment sites across Southeastern Pennsylvania."

SEPTA is the designated recipient for JARC program funding and will receive a total of \$5.2 million for new or expanded services. Local non-profit agencies and transportation management associations are also eligible sub-recipients and will share almost \$2.8 million for their services. Federal funding for the program is provided through the Safe,

Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act - A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) – enacted in August, 2005. Matching funds (50%) are provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and local applicants.

As the region's designated metropolitan planning organization, DVRPC is required to prepare and adopt a Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan (CHSTP) with regional demographic information, policies, and program priorities. The DVRPC Board also selects regional project applicants for funding, evaluates the consistency of proposed projects with the adopted CHSTP, and adds projects to the regional Transportation Improvement Program, pending grant approvals.

# DVRPC Lanching New Program to Promote Older Communities



For more information about the Classic Towns of Greater Philadelphia Program, contact [classictowns@dvrpc.org](mailto:classictowns@dvrpc.org) or 215.592.1800



A number of communities in and around Philadelphia have succeeded in preserving their sense of history, neighborliness, and main-street charm. DVRPC is launching a multi-faceted marketing program to promote these older suburbs and urban neighborhoods. The program, entitled Classic Towns of Greater Philadelphia, is among the first regional marketing effort of its kind in the country and solidifies DVRPC's commitment to the region's older communities.



The Classic Towns Program has established three goals. First, to influence homebuyers, business owners, and employers to locate in Greater Philadelphia's older suburbs and urban neighborhoods –

areas that are transit-accessible and pedestrian-oriented, and that offer varying types of housing stock. Second, to provide a new technical service – marketing – to our municipal constituents. Finally, to provide an internet destination for people looking to relocate to the area but whom are unfamiliar with the communities that make up this region.

DVRPC has designated nine communities and two urban neighborhoods within Philadelphia as Classic Towns, including Ambler Borough, Bristol Borough, Collingswood Borough, Doylestown Borough, Haddon Heights Borough, Lansdowne Borough, Manayunk, Media Borough, Overbrook Farms, Riverton Borough, and West Chester Borough.

The Classic Towns Program will kick off on July 28, 2008 with a live website launch ([classictowns.org](http://classictowns.org)).



# Ozone Season Kicks Off with Event for the Public

*Warm Summer Weather = Unhealthy Levels of Ground-Level Ozone*

**A**s warmer weather approaches, so does the onset of ground-level ozone. High levels of ozone pose health risks for everyone, and over half of the population is considered especially sensitive to ground-level ozone. Fortunately, ozone levels are being monitored and the public is alerted when levels become dangerous. A program of DVRPC, the Air Quality Partnership (AQP) educates residents about the dangerous effects of ground-level ozone and provides air quality forecasts to the public.

The Air Quality Partnership officially “kicked off” this ozone season with an event at the King of Prussia Mall on April 25, 2008. Environmental organizations and the King of Prussia Mall management joined together to celebrate efforts to improve air quality in the Delaware Valley, and educate the public about what they can do to protect their health and reduce air pollution.



AQP recognized two organizations for their exemplary efforts to improve air quality in the Philadelphia region. Chester County Commissioner, Carol Aichele, presented an Air Quality Excellence Award to Montgomery County for its commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and its action plan entitled Greenprint. Montgomery County Commissioner, Joseph Hoeffel, accepted the award on behalf of Montgomery County. Richard Kerr, Vice Chair of the Air Quality Partnership Board and NJ Transit’s Director of Innovative Service and Sales Programs,

presented an award to meteorologist David Murphy and WPVI Channel 6 for their commitment to protecting public health by providing air quality forecasts to the Delaware Valley.

The AQP’s ozone season runs from May through September. Currently, the Delaware Valley does not meet the federal air quality standards for ground-level ozone. In the summer, sunlight and high temperatures “bake” pollutants emitted by motor vehicles, power plants and other sources to form high levels of ground-level ozone, commonly known as smog. The AQP provides summertime ground-level ozone forecasts and encourages voluntary actions to reduce air pollution, such as taking transit and not topping off your gas tank.

**For daily air quality forecasts and helpful tips on how to reduce air pollution, visit [www.airqualitypartnership.org](http://www.airqualitypartnership.org)**

## Dots & Dashes Results Now Available



**R**emember the transit game that drew hundreds to DVRPC meetings to determine how to spend the region’s transportation dollars? Dots & Dashes, the Commission’s public participation exercise for transit, now has results available on the program’s website, [www.dotsanddashes.org](http://www.dotsanddashes.org). To date, the game has been played by over 200 individual regional stakeholders in 25 working Dots & Dashes groups. Funded through a grant provided by the Federal Transit Administration’s Public Transportation Participation Pilot Program, Dots & Dashes is a unique consensus-building exercise that provides an opportunity for Delaware Valley residents to discuss their priorities for future investments in public transportation in a fun, hands-on game setting. It is a significant component of public outreach for DVRPC’s *2035 Long Range Plan*.

**If you would like to have Dots & Dashes come to your next event, please contact Jane Meconi, AICP, DVRPC Manager of Public Involvement and Title VI Compliance, at 215.238.2871 or [jmeconi@dvrpc.org](mailto:jmeconi@dvrpc.org)**



## Meeting on Sustainability Draws Top Developers

**D**eveloping for a Sustainable Future was the focus of the March 2008 meeting of DVRPC's Land Use, Transportation, and Economic Development (LUTED) Committee.

Held on the 25th floor of the new, LEED-certified Comcast Tower, the meeting kicked off with a presentation by Joe Van Belleghem, a developer responsible for many exciting green projects in Canada.

His current project, Dockside Green in Victoria, British Columbia, is innovative in every aspect of its design. He provided insights into how his 15-acre brownfield development incorporates the best ideas from green building, smart growth, New Urbanism, and sustainable communities.

Following Mr. Van Belleghem's presentation, Sandy Wiggins, immediate past chair of the U.S. Green Building Council, led a discussion with a panel of four Philadelphia-area developers about the barriers to this kind of development in our region.

The panel included John Gattuso, Liberty Property Trust; John Westrum, Westrum Development Company; Jason Duckworth, Arcadia Land Company; and Tim McDonald, Onion Flats. All of these developers have incorporated green building into their work.

During the panel discussion, there was general agreement that policy-makers need more education on sustainable development with a focus on diminishing costs. Another challenge noted was local zoning ordinances that result in the need for many variances to build to LEED standards.

For more information on green building, visit the Delaware Valley Green Building Council website, [www.dvgbc.org](http://www.dvgbc.org)

## New Online Mapping Tool Enhances TIP Searches

Project ID	Project Name	Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	LATER YRS
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COM-00-011	Center City Philadelphia West Philadelphia	2008	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
COM-00-012	Center City Philadelphia West Philadelphia	2009	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
COM-00-013	Center City Philadelphia West Philadelphia	2010	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
COM-00-014	Center City Philadelphia West Philadelphia	2011	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
COM-00-015	Center City Philadelphia West Philadelphia	2012	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
COM-00-016	Center City Philadelphia West Philadelphia	2013	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
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COM-00-126	Center City Philadelphia West Philadelphia	2123	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
COM-00-127	Center City Philadelphia West Philadelphia	2124	10000	10000	10000	10000	10000
COM-00-128							



## Commission Examines Multi-Use Trails in Gloucester County

**T**asked with the goal of examining opportunities for a Gloucester County-wide network of routes for non-motorized travel, DVRPC has released a study that identifies connections to open spaces, recreational areas, employment centers, schools, transportation facilities and existing trails. The network would be comprised of existing trails; disused, abandoned and active rail rights of way; utility easements; open space corridors; and highway rights of way, using shared roadways where needed to connect discontinuous trail segments and link nearby destinations.

The report features a sketch plan for a network of four cross county routes:

- Gloucester County Trail, following an east-west alignment incorporating the existing Gloucester County rail-to-trail and the proposed Raccoon Creek greenway;
- Delaware Estuary Route, an on-road bike route linking communities along the Delaware River;
- Towns and Trains Trail, linking the county's oldest settlements from Woodbury to Glassboro and beyond; and
- Little Ease Trail, connecting the growing trail system of suburban Washington Township with natural areas to the south.

Offering a broad vision for a trails network, this study turns vision into reality. In 1997, the Gloucester County Board of Chosen Freeholders adopted an open space and preservation plan founded on the goal of including a county-wide network of trails, bike paths, and nature walks. This study points the way toward the realization of that goal.

To view the study, visit [www.dvrpc.org/asp/pubs/reports/08023.pdf](http://www.dvrpc.org/asp/pubs/reports/08023.pdf). For more information, please contact Joseph Hacker, Ph.D., Manager, Transit, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Planning at 215.238.2935 or [jhacker@dvrpc.org](mailto:jhacker@dvrpc.org)



walk ride share  
PHILADELPHIA

**S**everal DVRPC staff gave up their cars during the month of May, by participating in PhillyCarShare's "Ride Walk Share Challenge." As part of the Challenge, they vowed to use only public transit, bicycles and PhillyCarShare during the workweek. At the closing ceremony, DVRPC received an award for "Best Collaborative Team Effort."



# Get Involved in DVRPC!

**P**ublic participation and citizen involvement are integral to the work of DVRPC. One of the primary and continuous forms of public participation at DVRPC is the Regional Citizens Committee (RCC).

The RCC includes individuals and representatives of various organizations that are

concerned with land use, environmental, or transportation issues in the region. The RCC meets monthly to review and comment on DVRPC policy and plans, develops position papers on regional issues, and explores policy development in the regional and transportation planning fields. Building on DVRPC's existing mandates, the RCC has

also taken on the role of examining environmental justice issues in the region.

DVRPC recently updated and released *A Citizens Guide to the Regional Planning Process* which describes many of DVRPC's programs, including its work in Title VI and environmental justice. The Guide also outlines how citizens can become

involved in regional planning and DVRPC.

**If you are interested in learning more about the RCC, or if you would like to receive a copy of *A Citizens Guide*, please contact Jane Meconi, AICP, Manager of Public Involvement and Title VI Compliance at 215.238.2871 or [jmeconi@dvrpc.org](mailto:jmeconi@dvrpc.org)**

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Delaware Valley  
Regional Planning  
Commission



## DVRPC NEWS VOLUME 29 / ISSUE 04

### DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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