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DVRPC Announces Sweeping Long-Range Plan *for the Region*



DVRPC, along with government officials from two states, four cities, and nine counties in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, gathered at the Commission's Board Retreat in September to endorse a far-reaching long-range plan for managing growth in the Greater Philadelphia region.

The plan, *Connections – the Regional Plan for a Sustainable Future*, calls for protecting 500,000 acres of open space, cutting greenhouse gas emissions by half, and securing an additional \$100 million per year in new regional funding to modernize the transportation system.

It also focuses on new development and revitalization projects in the region's 100-plus "livable communities," which are pedestrian-friendly, transit-oriented neighborhoods throughout the region that blend residential and commercial amenities. The plan is available online at www.dvrpc.org.

The plan was officially endorsed at a press conference that took center stage at DVRPC's Annual Board Retreat. Public officials signed a resolution committing DVRPC member governments and agencies "to work together to forward the

regional vision" through implementing principles set forth in the document.

"This long-range plan will set the Greater Philadelphia region on a course for smart growth that realizes a collective vision for a more sustainable approach to the way we live, work, and play in the nine-county area," said Barry Seymour, DVRPC's Executive Director.

The plan is a blueprint for future growth and is part of the Commission's mandate as the metropolitan planning organization, or MPO, for the Greater Philadelphia Region. It is designed to connect people in cities, suburbs, and rural areas of the Delaware Valley; coordinate planning at the state, regional, and local levels; and tie together land use, transportation, the economy, and the environment.

**MORE ON DVRPC'S
LONG-RANGE PLAN
CONTINUED
ON PAGE 2...**

PHOTO Left to Right: The Honorable Louis Cappelli, the Honorable Carol Aichele, the Honorable Michael Nutler, the Honorable Joseph Hoefel, and Barry Seymour. Long-Range Plan Event and Board Retreat Photo Credit: Shooting Stars Photography



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Press Conference Highlights Long-Range Plan



Developed with input and guidance from the public, the long-range plan establishes a series of goals and strategies over the next 25 years for managing land use and protecting natural resources, promoting better integrated urban-suburban development, building a more energy-efficient economy, and ensuring “right-sized” transportation projects that emphasize multiple modes of transportation.

The plan’s principles include:

- managing land use and preserving open space;
- creating livable communities by focusing development in more than 100 identified centers throughout the region;
- building an energy-efficient economy; and
- establishing a funding mechanism for transportation projects through tolls, local taxes or fees, public-private partnerships, or bonds.

For more information, visit our website: www.dvrpc.org/connections



Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter led DVRPC Board Members in the signing of the resolution.





DVRPC'S Board Retreat Explores Mega-Regions, Mega-Solutions



What was Said...

1 *"Failure to maintain and revitalize the region's transportation systems can undercut economic competitiveness and negatively impact the environment through increased congestion and lengthy travel times."*
 – Honorable Michael Nutter, Mayor, City of Philadelphia

2 *"We need to focus on creating more walkable, bicycle-friendly communities that are better served by public transit, and offer affordable housing opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds."*
 – Honorable Louis Cappelli, Jr., Esq., Camden County Freeholder Director and DVRPC Board Chair

3 *"Protecting open space enables us to focus growth by redeveloping areas with existing infrastructure and promoting compact development centered on established, well-functioning communities."*
 – Honorable Carol Aichele, Chester County Commissioner and DVRPC Board Member

4 *"A focus on energy efficiency will make the region more viable in attracting new businesses, while providing existing businesses with a competitive advantage."*
 – Honorable Joseph M. Hoeffel, Montgomery County Commissioner and DVRPC Board Treasurer.

More than 100 elected and appointed officials, business leaders, and citizen representatives gathered in September for the 23rd Annual Board Retreat, held at The Adventure Aquarium in Camden, New Jersey.

The Board and Work Program Committee meetings and a press conference for the *Connections* Plan kicked off the day. Over lunch, DVRPC Board Chair and Camden County Freeholder, Director Louis Cappelli, Jr., welcomed Thomas P. Corcoran, President and CEO of the Cooper's Ferry Development Corporation. Mr. Corcoran spoke about the exciting new developments planned for the Camden Waterfront.

The afternoon's panels focused on the issues that complex and increasingly larger regions share as they deal with transportation and land use issues.

Speaking on the first panel were Rob Wonderling, President and CEO, Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce; Philip K. Beachem, President, New Jersey Alliance for Action; and George Schoener, Executive Director, I-95 Corridor Coalition. Participating in the second panel on the challenges that mega-regions face, were Fred Abousleman, Executive Director, National Association of Regional Councils; Neil Pedersen, State Highway Administrator, Maryland Department of Transportation; and Randy Blankenhorn, Executive Director, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning.





Over 80 city officials, tourism executives and representatives from the 20 Classic Towns were in attendance. The event began with a cocktail reception, and was followed by a program and plaque presentations.

Nine Communities Join the “Classic Towns of Greater Philadelphia” Initiative



Representatives from the 2009 Classic Towns.

In October 2009, nine towns were welcomed into DVRPC’s “Classic Towns of Greater Philadelphia” program. This marketing initiative is aimed at growing, revitalizing, and supporting the region’s older suburbs and urban neighborhoods. It promotes Classic Towns as great places to live, work, and play.

The nine communities selected for the second phase of the initiative are Ardmore, New Hope, Phoenixville, Souderton/Telford, and Wayne in Pennsylvania; the Philadelphia neighborhood of Germantown; and Glassboro, Merchantville, and Moorestown in New

Jersey. The additions bring the number of designated Classic Towns to 20.

“The expansion of the Classic Towns program is a sign of DVRPC’s ongoing commitment to the growth, revitalization, and support of our region’s older communities,” said Executive Director, Barry Seymour. “Our region is stronger and more competitive when communities work together like this.”

To learn more about the Classic Towns initiative, and for information about specific neighborhoods and their amenities, visit www.classictowns.org.

PHOTO CREDIT: Shooting Stars Photography



DVRPC announced the nine new Classic Towns at a reception at the Chemical Heritage Foundation in Philadelphia. Speaking at the event was Malcolm Johnstone, Executive Director of the West Chester Business Improvement District; Leo McCabe, Mayor of Glassboro; and Barry Seymour, DVRPC Executive Director.



DVRPC Funds Over \$1.8 Billion in Highway and Transit Improvements in South Jersey

The DVRPC Board has approved more than \$1.8 billion in funding for major highway and public transit investments in southern New Jersey when they adopted the **DVRPC FY 2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for New Jersey for fiscal years 2010-2013**. The TIP lists all transportation projects that intend to use federal funds, along with all state-funded projects. The list is multi-modal, and includes highway, transit, bicycle,

pedestrian, and freight-related projects. The FY 2010-2013 TIP for the New Jersey portion of the DVRPC region contains over 170 projects worth almost \$1.8 billion (an average of \$445 million per year). This includes \$925 million for projects primarily addressing the highway system and \$846 million for transit projects for DRPA/PATCO and NJ Transit. In addition to the TIP, the DVRPC Board adopted the Conformity Finding of the FY 2010 NJ

TIP and the FY 2009 PA TIP. This conformity process ensures that plans and programs receiving federal funding are consistent with national, state, and regional air quality requirements.

To view a copy of the TIP and current TIP projects using Google Maps, visit www.dvrpc.org/TIP.



Local Food Economy is Focus of New Study



DVRPC recently completed the *Greater Philadelphia Food System Study*, a project that evaluates the food system comprising the nine-county region. This study looked at a broad range of food supply issues, such as agricultural production trends, natural resource constraints, the origins and destinations of food

imports and exports, and the significance of the food economy. For the purposes of this study, DVRPC defined the metropolitan area's "foodshed" as a 100-mile radius from a center point in downtown Philadelphia – this is the area in which Greater Philadelphia could hypothetically source local food.

Findings of significance include:

- The nine-county region cannot subsist on local foods alone because Greater Philadelphia's food demand is greater than the 100-Mile Foodshed's food supply.

- Local agriculture benefits from Philadelphia's consumer markets; but the DVRPC nine-county region is losing viable farmland each year to inefficient land use.
- The Greater Philadelphia region has fewer aggregate food dollars than other nearby metro areas. This increases our food supply deficit, as some suppliers prefer selling food for higher prices in the New York and Washington D.C. metro areas and not in the DVRPC nine-county region.
- An American culture of cheap, processed, and convenient food has led to a culture of unhealthy food.

- Recently, efforts to strengthen the regional food system have been gaining momentum. Interest in local foods, land trusts, and urban agriculture are all indicative of positive changes for the nine-county region.

DVRPC's *Greater Philadelphia Food System Study* will be followed by the *Plan for a More Sustainable Food System*, to be completed in the summer of 2010. The plan will use the results of the study to identify recommendations for improvement and create a vision for a more sustainable and resilient food system for Greater Philadelphia. **For more information, visit www.dvrpc.org/food.**



Stimulus Update on Transportation Projects

For information on stimulus projects, or to inquire about the status of a stimulus project, visit www.dvrpc.org/Transportation/stimulus.htm, or contact Elizabeth Schoonmaker at 215-238-2938 or eschoonmaker@dvrpc.org.

In the 9-county DVRPC region, as of mid-October, a total of **\$542,946,452** in stimulus funding has been awarded to various construction firms in an effort to meet the deadline of March 1, 2012 – which is when all stimulus projects, a total of 101, must be constructed and/or completed.

In the DVRPC PA Subregion:

- PennDOT awarded a total of **\$247,977,269** in ARRA funds for 21 out of a total of 29 sponsored stimulus projects.
- SEPTA awarded a total of **\$137,912,247** in ARRA funds for 27 out of a total of 32 sponsored stimulus projects.
- Pottstown Urban Transit awarded a total of **\$654,196** in ARRA funds for one out of a total of two sponsored stimulus projects.

In the DVRPC NJ Subregion:

- NJDOT awarded a total of **\$83,507,735** in ARRA funds for 5 out of a total of 28 sponsored stimulus projects.
- DRPA/PATCO awarded a total of **\$36,055,005** in ARRA funds; both DRPA / PATCO sponsored stimulus projects have been awarded to various contractors.
- NJ Transit awarded a total of **\$36,840,000** in ARRA funds for seven out of a total of eight sponsored stimulus projects.



Smart Growth Improvements Recommended for Route 611

The Commission recently completed the Route 611 / 623 Corridor Study, the final phase of a two-year project evaluating

the corridors along Route 611 and Route 623 in Montgomery County. The study identified projects and programs to achieve needed solutions while promoting smart growth. Suggestions include the revitalization of older town centers, stimulation of new

development and growth, enhancing access to transit, and promoting the development of mixed-use corridors.

For more information about this project, contact David Anderson at 215-238-2825 or danderson@dvrpc.org.



DVRPC and PENNDOT Fund Transportation Enhancements Project in Cheltenham

Cheltenham Township officials Bryan T. Havir (left), Assistant Township Manager, and Commissioner Drew Sharkey (right), representing Glenside, accept a PennDOT Community Transportation Initiative grant for \$1.4 million to continue the recently installed streetscape improvements on Easton Road to Arcadia University. Enhancements will include granite curbing, attractive streetlights, and decorative crosswalks designed to attract both shoppers and businesses to downtown Glenside. Taking part in the presentation during the Glenside Street Fair on September 26, 2009 were (left to right) Daphne Oliver, representing Pennsylvania Senator LeAnna Washington; Pennsylvania Representative Lawrence H. Curry; Charles Hayden, Chief Counsel and Administrative Assistant for Congressman Chaka Fattah; and Donald Shanis, Deputy Executive Director, DVRPC.

Transportation Operations Master Plan Debuts



DVRPC recently completed the *Transportation Operations Master Plan*, a component of the *Connections Long-Range Plan*. In order to establish a modern, multi-modal transportation system for the region, the plan outlines

goals, a transportation vision, projects and programs, and a financial plan. The main operational goals of the plan include: reducing traffic congestion through incident and traffic management, providing more options for travelers by providing real-time information, and improving the delivery of transit services.

To learn more, visit www.dvrpc.org/operations/Masterplan.htm.



Newly Designed Website Wins National Award

The National Association of Government Webmasters (NAGW) has awarded DVRPC a top honor for its website, www.dvrpc.org.

Award winners were announced in September at NAGW's 2009 National Conference in Galveston, Texas, and awards were presented to local governments for website excellence. Judges reviewed websites based on team size, content, organization, design, function, accessibility, standards, and interactivity. DVRPC received a Pinnacle Award in the Large Population category.

Bicycle Priorities *are* Forefront *of* New Program



In order to better understand bicycle issues and priorities in the region, DVRPC has started a new outreach program called *Shifting Gears*. The program will seek input from bicyclists

and nonbicyclists alike, and it will consist of three parts: an inventory of county and regional bicycle plans, staff outreach to county stakeholders, and a regional online questionnaire targeting riders and nonriders.

In the upcoming months, DVRPC staff will contact each county to set up a meeting with those involved with bicycle planning and advocacy. The focus of these meetings will be on defining plans, policies, and priorities.

For more information, contact Dan Nemiroff, Transportation Planner, at 215.238.2879 or dnemiroff@dvrpc.org.



DVRPC to Complete Freight Scans

DVRPC is undertaking a new initiative called *County Freight Scans*. The program will equip county planners with increased understanding of freight trends and greater knowledge of freight issues.

DVRPC staff will review the freight element of the county comprehensive plan, conduct meetings with key stakeholders, prepare county-specific freight data, and more. In addition, staff will assemble mapping information regarding major transportation facilities, freight

generators, and special areas (e.g., Foreign Trade Zones). This information will be compiled in a GIS environment that can be readily accessed by the member governments.

At the conclusion of the program, DVRPC will also prepare a freight-related brochure as part of the Municipal Implementation Tool series.

For more information about this project, contact **Ted Dahlburg** at 215.238.2844 or tdahlburg@dvrpc.org.

Commission Studying Economic Value *of* Open Space



DVRPC and the Greenspace Alliance are partnering on an effort to conduct a study that will quantify the economic value of the protected open space (publicly owned and leased lands) in Philadelphia, Bucks,

Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery counties.

The results of the study will be used to raise political and financial support for more open space preservation, promote policy changes that will favor open space

protection, and reframe the dialogue about open space as a benefit, not just an expense.

For more information, contact **Patty Elkis** at 215-238-2838 or pelkis@dvrpc.org.

TCDI Grant Program to Provide Funds to Local Communities for Revitalization Efforts

DVRPC is providing up to \$1.62 million in grants to support local development efforts in communities that implement municipal,

county, state, and regional planning objectives. The funding is being made available through the Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI) program.

The program provides needed funding to the region's older townships,

boroughs, and cities to support redevelopment efforts and stem the loss of population or jobs. Communities utilize these funds for a wide range of redevelopment efforts, including creating Business Improvement Districts; updating zoning ordinances and comprehensive master

plans; developing plans for transit-oriented development; inter-municipal planning; and prioritizing capital transportation improvements.

More information is available at: www.dvrpc.org/TCDI.



New Board Officers Elected for FY 2010

The DVRPC Board has selected the **Honorable Louis Cappelli, Jr., Esq.**, Camden County Freeholder Director, to lead the agency as Board Chair through the next fiscal year. Freeholder Director Cappelli took over this leadership role in July and will serve until June 30, 2010. The Board also elected **David G. Mandelbaum, Esq.**, of Greenberg Traurig, LLP and the Pennsylvania Governor's appointee, as Vice Chair; **Charles E. Romick**, Planning Director, Gloucester County Planning Department, as Secretary; and the **Honorable Joseph M. Hoeffel**, Montgomery County Commissioner, as Treasurer.



DVRPC's 9th Annual Celebration of Regional Excellence

Please mark your calendar for DVRPC's 9th Annual Celebration of Regional Excellence to be held on **Thursday, May 20, 2010, in the Ballroom of the Four Seasons Hotel, Philadelphia.** Watch for more details in the mail to you soon!

Photo on the left is Logan Circle Fountain, located next to the Four Seasons Hotel, Philadelphia.

For information about attending the dinner or becoming a sponsor, contact Candace Snyder, Public Affairs Director, at 215-238-2875 or csnyder@dvrpc.org.

FY 2010 Board Officers

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David Mandelbaum Vice Chair
Charles E. Romick Secretary
Joseph M. Hoeffel Treasurer
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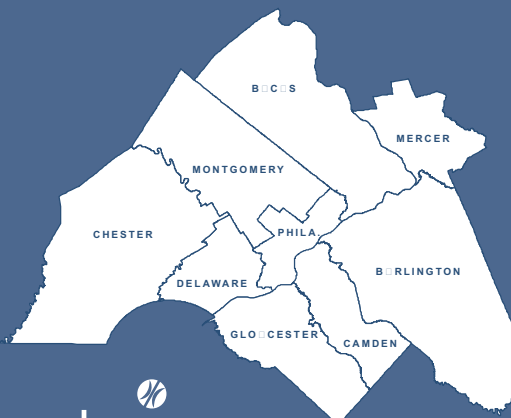
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