

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

BOARD COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of January 22, 1998 - 10:30 a.m.

Location: Commission Offices
The Bourse Building, 8th Floor
111 South Independence Mall East
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Membership Present

Representative

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs	Joyce Paul
New Jersey Department of Transportation	William S. Beetle John H. Moore
Governor of New Jersey's Appointee	Jerrold D. Colton
Governor of Pennsylvania's Appointee	Timothy J. Carson
Pennsylvania Governor's Policy Office	Charles Bohnenberger
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation	Dennis Lebo
Bucks County	(not represented)
Chester County	Colin A. Hanna
Delaware County	John E. Pickett
Montgomery County	Kenneth Hughes
Burlington County	Ridgeley P. Ware Carol Ann Thomas
Camden County	J. Douglas Griffith
Gloucester County	John R. Maier Charles Romick
Mercer County	(not represented)

City of Chester	William Payne
City of Philadelphia	Denise L. Goren
City of Camden	(not represented)
City of Trenton	Andrew Carten

Non-Voting Members

Federal Highway Administration Pennsylvania Division New Jersey Division	(not represented) Lloyd Jacobs
U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Region III	(not represented)
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III	(not represented)
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region II	(not represented)
Federal Transit Administration, Region III	(not represented)
New Jersey Office of State Planning	Charles Newcomb
Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority	Richard G. Bickel
New Jersey Transit Corporation	Brent Barnes
Port Authority Transit Corporation	Robert G. Schwab
Delaware River Port Authority	Neil Weissman
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development	Ronald K. Bednar
Regional Citizens Committee Chairman	Dennis Winters

DVRPC Co-Counsel

Pennsylvania Co-Counsel
New Jersey Co-Counsel

Kenneth Zielonis
Thomas J. Coleman, III

DVRPC Staff: John J. Coscia, John B. Claffey, William Greene, Barry Seymour, Donald Shanis, Charles Dougherty, Roger Moog, Ronald Roggenburk, Candace Snyder, and Jean McKinney.

Guests

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Robert Hannigan
Andrew Warren (Dist. 6)

New Jersey Department of Transportation

Jerry Mooney
Al Prant

Bucks County Planning Commission

Robert E. Moore

Chester County Planning Commission

William Fulton

Federal Highway Administration (NJ Division)

Calvin Edghill

New Jersey Governor's Office

Cynthia Covie

US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2

Rudy Kapichak

Representative from Happy Fernandez Office

Miles Day

Akers Laboratories

Raymond F. Akers

Regional Citizens Committee

Peggy Killmer

Call to Order

Chairman Ridgeley P. Ware, called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

Chairman Ware introduced and welcomed to the Board Jerrold D. Colton who will serve as the newly appointed New Jersey Governor's Appointee.

Chairman Ware then presented a plaque to Raymond F. Akers for his eight years of dedicated service to the DVRPC Board as the New Jersey Governor's Appointee.

Public Comments

Comments from the public were invited to be heard on non-agenda items. No comments were stated.

1. Minutes of the Meeting of December 8, 1997

On a **motion** by Mr. Hanna, seconded by Ms. Paul; the minutes of the meeting of December 8, 1997 were approved as distributed.

2. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments

John B. Claffey, DVRPC Staff, briefed the Board on the TIP Amendments as follows:

FY 1998-2002 New Jersey TIP

Amendment 9804 - City of Trenton Traffic Signals (City of Trenton)

The City of Trenton's request to amend the FY 1998-2002 TIP to advance the construction phase of seven traffic signal projects, using \$3.2 million in Federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds from the delayed construction phase of the Paulsboro Bridge project. These include:

- (1) North Willow Street/Pennington Avenue Traffic Signal (\$110,000),
- (2) Market Street/South Warren Street/New Warren Street Traffic Signal/Intersection Improvement (\$150,000),
- (3) Greenwood Avenue/Chestnut Avenue Traffic Signal/Intersection Improvement (\$95,000),
- (4) Greenwood Avenue/Monmouth Street Traffic Signal/Intersection Improvement (\$100,000),
- (5) Greenwood Avenue/Cuyler Avenue traffic Signal/Intersection Improvement (\$96,000),
- (6) Perry Street/North Clinton Avenue Traffic Signal/Intersection Improvement (960,000).

Amendment 9805 - New Jersey Counties/Cities Highway Planning

New Jersey cities and counties request to amend the TIP by adding the New Jersey Counties/Cities Highway Planning project at a total cost of \$437,500 (\$350,000 federal, \$87,500 local). This TIP project will provide funding for the New Jersey portion of the Supportive Regional Highway Planning Program in the FY 1999 Planning Work Program.

FY 1997-2000 Pennsylvania TIP

Amendment 9735- Pottstown Urban Transit Bus Stop and turn-Around
(Montgomery county)

Pottstown Urban Transit's request to amend the TIP by adding a Bus Stop and Turn-Around project to FY 1998 at a total cost of \$200,000 (\$160,000 federal, \$33,333 state, \$6,667 local). The borough intends to purchase about one acre of land adjacent to the Montgomery County Community College to develop into a bus stop and turnaround. The lack of adequate turning radii within the college's parking lot is currently preventing PUT from serving this facility.

All of the above TIP amendments will not alter the TIP's conformity finding since all of the projects are exempt from the regional air quality conformity analysis.

Favorable recommendation from the Planning Coordinating Committee / Regional Transportation Committee (PCC/RTC), was received to approve TIP Amendments 9804, 9805, and 9735.

The Regional Citizens Committee (RCC) recommends approval of TIP amendment 9804 but voices a concern that signalization should give adequate time for bicycles and pedestrians to cross, and should promote transit first. The RCC also again indicates its request that more and better information be provided for TIP amendments/modifications and that DVRPC staff provide maps showing the locations of projects.

TIP Amendment 9805 was not reviewed by the RCC.

The RCC recommends approval of TIP Amendment 9735.

The Board unanimously adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Mr. Griffith, seconded by Mr. Maier that the Board approve the following New Jersey and Pennsylvania TIP Amendments:

New Jersey TIP

- (1) 9804: advance the construction phase of seven traffic signal projects in the City of Trenton, New Jersey, using \$3.2 million in federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds from the delayed construction phase of the Paulsboro Bridge project,
- (2) 9805: add the New Jersey Cities and Counties Highway Planning project, using \$350,000 in federal Surface Transportation Program - Urban Allocation funds (STU) currently reserved as a placeholder in the FY 1998-2002 TIP, and

Pennsylvania TIP

- (3) 9735: Pottstown Urban Transit's request to acquire a parcel of land adjacent to Montgomery County Community College for use as a bus stop and turnaround using \$200,000 available from prior years' federal funds.

3. Draft Fiscal Year 1999 Planning Work Program

The Draft Fiscal Year 1999 Planning Work Program consisting of DVRPC's Regular Planning Program, Supportive Regional Highway Planning Program, and Transit Support Program was distributed to the Planning Coordinating Commtee/Regional Transportation Committee, the Regional Citizens Committee and the Board in December for review.

John J. Coscia, Executive Director, reported that all responses received and the recommended changes to the Draft Work Program have been distributed to the Board. The recommended changes to the Draft document were carefully reviewed by DVRPC staff and the Board's Work Program Committee.

The Board Work Program Committee at its meeting on January 22, 1998 recommended that the DVRPC Board adopt the FY 1999 Planning Work Program as revised.

The PCC/RTC also recommended that the Board approve the FY 1999 Planning Work Program, including the Transit Support Program and the Supportive Highway Planning program.

The RTC/PCC further recommended that an additional \$5000 in Transit Support program funds be made available to Delaware County by reducing each member government's Transit Support Program budget by \$555.00 with the understanding that a review of the TSP process for Fiscal Year 2000 will be undertaken.

Favorable recommendation was also received from the RCC that the Board adopt the FY 1999 Planning Work Program with the recommendations stated in the letters from RCC members Bill Rafsky and Ajay Creshkoff (distributed to the Board with RCC minutes of January 13, 1998).

The Board unanimously adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Mr. Lebo, seconded by Ms. Goren; that the Board adopt the FY 1999 Planning Work Program, as revised, and authorize the Executive Director to submit applications and documentation as may be required to fund programs and negotiate and execute all required contracts and agreements by passing Resolution No. B-FY98-010.

4. FY 1998 Planning Work Program Amendment for TEAM Pennsylvania Program

Barry Seymour, DVRPC staff, briefed the Board on the TEAM Pennsylvania Program. He explained that DVRPC has been working with the Delaware Valley Industrial Resource Center and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development to expand collaboration, outreach and use of advanced technologies to retain, expand and create jobs in southeastern Pennsylvania. DVRPC will expand its participation to include assistance in establishing Resource Network initiatives and support the TEAM Pennsylvania Business Calling Program.

Commissioner Hanna, Chester County, stated that he believes there is potential for a conflict between economic development and land use. He suggested that the Board try to facilitate, through DVRPC participation in the TEAM Pennsylvania process, an effort to coordinate economic development site location with comprehensive land use planning.

The following **motion** was unanimously adopted:

MOTION by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Maier; that the Board amend the FY 1998 Planning Work Program to include the TEAM Pennsylvania Program and authorize the Executive Director to file any necessary applications and negotiate and execute any required contracts.

5. Draft Regional Indicators as Measures of Progress Toward the DVRPC Year 2020 Plan

Barry Seymour, DVRPC Staff, presented to the Board the Draft Technical Report entitled *Regional Indicators: Measuring Our Progress to 2020*. The report contains a collection of data in 27 categories, which measure the progress toward implementing the DVRPC Year 2020 Plan. The project parameters include eight issue areas as follows: (1) Physical Form, (2) Traffic Congestion, (3) Environment, (4) Air Quality, (5) Economic Development, (6) Freight Movement, (7) Mobility, and (8) Housing. Mr. Seymour explained how the report describes the background and use of each of the 27 indicators.

Commissioner Hanna, Chester County, identified three concerns regarding the Physical Form issue area: first, the inclusion of the amount of regional agricultural acres preserved in perpetuity; second, acres of open space that are neither agricultural nor recreational; and third, acres of the previously mentioned open space preserved in perpetuity through scenic easements, etc.

Some other areas of concern which the Board believed should be measured and included in the final report were stated as follows: (1) pedestrian mobility and number of pedestrian accidents, and (2) bicycle mobility.

DVRPC staff assured the Board that although some of the information dealing with these concerns is not available, an effort will be expended to include measures regarding these areas in the final report. It was also pointed out that reporting these measures are a continuing process subject to ongoing change.

After favorable recommendation was received from the PCC/RCC, the Board adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Beetle; that the Board approves the draft Regional Indicators Report as measures of progress in implementing the Year 2020 Plan and authorizes production of a technical report and summary brochure.

6. EPA Disapproval of New Jersey State Implementation Plan (SIP) Revision

Mr. Coscia discussed EPA's letter of December 12, 1997 concerning their recent disapproval of the New Jersey State Implementation Plan (SIP) to achieve air quality standards. Mr. Coscia further explained that the state of New Jersey is violating the federal requirements because of their failure to implement an enhanced inspection and maintenance program and reduce emissions by 15%.

Because of this disapproval, after April 10, 1998 the conformity status of the DVRPC Plan and TIP will be frozen. Freezing means that only projects in the first three years of the TIP will be permitted to advance and any amendments or new projects which cause a change in emissions cannot be introduced into the STIP and TIP.

NJDOT and DVRPC have met to discuss how to adjust the STIP and the MPO TIP's before the April 10th deadline to advance projects which are ready to move forward without losing federal funds. However, if New Jersey fails to implement an enhanced inspection and maintenance program within the 18-month EPA mandated time frame they may lose federal funds for transportation.

A New Jersey Caucus meeting will be scheduled to discuss how to proceed with adjusting the TIP and STIP to ensure the advancement of transportation projects.

7. Executive Director's Report

a. NJDOT/MPO's Directors Meeting held on January 8, 1998

Mr. Coscia reported that the NJDOT/MPO Directors meeting was held to discuss the NJDOT Planning Work Program. At that meeting NJDOT presented a new corridor strategy and corridor concept process. NJDOT is proposing to develop corridor strategies and, in turn, develop detailed strategies for each corridor. Mr. Coscia suggested that this also be a discussion item at the New Jersey Caucus meeting which will be scheduled in February.

b. United Way Conference held on January 7, 1998: *Changes to Welfare in Pennsylvania*

Barry Seymour reported on the United Way Conference held on January 7, 1998: *Changes to Welfare in Pennsylvania*. DVRPC coordinated a session at the conference pertaining to the issues of reverse commuting and job placement.

c. Report of the Millstone Corridor CMS, Mercer County, New Jersey

Donald Shanis, DVRPC Staff, reported on the status of the Millstone Corridor CMS for Mercer County, New Jersey. He reported that the preliminary findings of the CMS show that improvements are needed in this corridor to help manage congestion and traffic flow. NJDOT is completing the CMS in which five congestion management strategies are being considered to enhance the improvements. They include: (1) bicycle and pedestrian capabilities, (2) the need for a New Jersey Study and Transportation Forum, (3) ridesharing, (4) transit issues, and (5) signage. A report of these findings will be presented to the Board in March.

- d. State Transportation Commission (STC) Hearings on the PennDOT 12-Year Program

Mr. Coscia reported that STC Hearings on the PennDOT 12-Year Program would be held in Philadelphia on February 19, 1998. He invited all Board members to participate on the panel with the STC Commissioners.

8. Committee Reports

- a. Planning Coordinating Committee/Regional Transportation Committee

The recommendation of the PCC/RTC were previously reported with the appropriate agenda items.

- b. Regional Citizens Committee

In addition to the RCC recommendations previously reported, Dennis Winters, RCC Chairman, reported that the RCC adopted a number of resolutions which are reflected in their *Recommendations to the Board* for January 22, 1998 (copy attached).

- c. Regional Aviation Committee

Roger Moog, DVRPC Staff, briefed the Board on the Activities of the Regional Aviation Committee's meeting of December 11, 1998. The major discussions at that meeting involved strategies to preserve the operation of four endangered airports; Wings, Brandywine, New Garden, and Buehl.

- d. Regional Air Quality Committee

The activities of the Regional Air Quality Committee are contained in the *Meeting Summary* of December 12, 1997 (distributed to the Board).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 a.m.

Attachments:

- (1) Resolution No. B-FY98-010
- (2) PCC/RTC Recommendations to the Board for January 22, 1997
- (3) RCC Recommendations to the Board for January 22, 1997

Additional Documents Distributed to the Board:

- (1) Freight Lines, January 1998
- (2) Alert, January 1998
- (3) TravelSmart, January 12, 1998
- (4) Delaware Valley Date 1996 Census Population Estimates,
Data Bulletin No. 56
- (5) AMTRAK Northeast Corridor Government Affairs News, January 13, 1998

RESOLUTION

by the Board of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

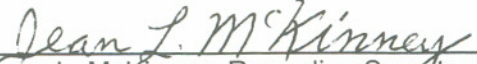
**ADOPTION OF THE
DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
FISCAL YEAR 1999 PLANNING WORK PROGRAM**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC):

1. Approves and adopts the Fiscal Year 1999 Planning Work Program (PWP), consisting of the Regular DVRPC Planning Work Program, the Supportive Regional Highway Planning Program and the Transit Support Program, as recommended by the Board Work Program Committee; and
2. Authorizes and directs John J. Coscia, Executive Director, to negotiate the final details of the Board approved and adopted Fiscal Year 1999 Planning Work Program with appropriate funding agencies and to prepare, execute and file the required applications and enter into and execute the necessary contracts and grant agreements, and modifications thereto, on behalf of the DVRPC with and in the form required by a local government, operating agency, state agency, or Federal agency to aid in financing the work described in the approved and adopted Fiscal Year 1999 Planning Work Program; and
3. Authorizes and directs John J. Coscia, Executive Director, to execute and file with such applications, contracts and agreements, such assurances as may be required or any other document concerning compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and all other pertinent directives and requirements thereunder; and
4. Authorizes and directs John J. Coscia, Executive Director, to set forth and execute Disadvantaged Business Enterprise policies and establish and administer procedures as may be required to ensure utilization of disadvantaged businesses to the maximum extent feasible in connection with the procurement needs of the projects described in the adopted Fiscal Year 1999 Planning Work Program; and
5. Designates John J. Coscia, Executive Director, as the authorized representative of the Commission, to provide such additional information, documents and certifications as may be required in connection with all matters pertaining to any application, grant agreement or project contained in the Fiscal Year 1999 Planning Work Program; and
6. Authorizes and directs Jean L. McKinney, Recording Secretary, to impress the official seal of the Commission and attest same on all documents as may be required.

Adopted this 22nd day of January, 1998
by the Board of the Delaware Valley
Regional Planning Commission.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution passed by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission at a meeting duly held on January 22, 1998.


Jean L. McKinney, Recording Secretary

**PLANNING COORDINATING COMMITTEE/
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD FOR
JANUARY 22, 1998**

**BOARD
AGENDA ITEM**

2. TIP AMENDMENTS

FY 1998-2002 New Jersey TIP

a. TIP Amendment 9804

The PCC/RTC recommends:

That the Board approve TIP Amendment 9804, the City of Trenton's request to amend the 1998-2002 TIP for New Jersey to advance the construction phase of seven traffic signal projects, using \$3.2 million in federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds from the delayed construction phase of the Paulsboro Bridge project.

b. TIP Amendment 9805

The PCC/RTC recommends:

That the Board approve TIP Amendment 9805, New Jersey Cities and Counties Highway Planning, using \$350,000 in federal Surface Transportation Program - Urban Allocation funds (STU) currently reserved as a placeholder in the FY 1998-2002 TIP.

FY 1997-2000 Pennsylvania TIP

c. TIP Amendment 9735

The PCC/RTC recommends:

That the Board approve TIP Amendment 9735, Pottstown Urban Transit's request to acquire a parcel of land adjacent to Montgomery County Community College for use as a bus stop and turn-around using \$200,000 available from prior years' federal funds.

(over)

3. DRAFT FY 1999 DVRPC PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

The PCC/RTC recommends:

That the Board approve FY 1999 DVRPC Planning Work Program, including the Transit Support Program and the Supportive Highway Planning Program.

The PCC/RTC further recommends:

That an additional \$5000.00 in Transit Support Program funds be made available to Delaware County by reducing each other member government's Transit Support Program budget by \$555.00 with the understanding that a review of the TSP process for Fiscal Year 2000 will be undertaken.

5. DVRPC REGIONAL INDICATORS: MEASURING OUR PROGRESS TO 2020

The PCC/RTC recommends:

That the Board approve the DVRPC Regional Indicators report.

DVRPC REGIONAL CITIZENS COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD FOR JANUARY 22, 1998

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

2. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENTS

The RCC recommends:

a. TIP Amendment 9804

That the Board approve TIP Amendment 9804 but voices a concern that signalization should give adequate time for bicycles and pedestrians to cross, and should promote transit first. The RCC also again indicates its request that more and better information be provided for TIP amendments/modifications and that DVRPC staff provide maps showing the locations of projects.

c. TIP Amendment 9735

That the Board approve TIP Amendment 9735.

3. DRAFT FISCAL YEAR 1999 PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

The RCC recommends that the Board approve the FY 1999 Planning Work Program but the committee is including copies of letters from members, Bill Rafsky and Ajay Creshkoff, which the Board should note. The RCC also urges the DVRPC staff and Board to include at least one housing study in the FY 1999 Planning Work Program.

IN OTHER BUSINESS:

The RCC adopted a number of resolutions which include the following:

The RCC commends the Delaware Valley Association of Railroad Passengers (DVARP) for sponsoring an excursion train between Philadelphia, the Norristown Transportation Center, and the Vanity Fair Retail Outlet in Reading, along a corridor on which many agree rail passenger service is needed. Such excursions demonstrate physical feasibility and provide publicity for the restoration of regular service.

The RCC believes that the alternatives being considered for public input for the Cross County Corridor Study are inadequate. If not changed, an unsuitable, overly costly, or

inflexible solution may result. It is equally likely that a cost-effective solution will not emerge and that essentially nothing will be done to improve cross-county public transport soon.

Alternatives that should be added to the current six:

1. A quality expressway bus service with minimal construction to connect park-and-ride lots, highway turnout bus stops, and major business or industrial areas with a single bus ride.
Such service would utilize the Turnpike, Blue Route, etc., and could be incrementally developed. They would combine the experience of SEPTA's successful Schuylkill Expressway Routes 124 and 125 with the goals of the 1983 Montgomery County Turnpike Bus Study.
2. For longer distance travel, Amtrak service over a modestly improved railroad line.
3. Also for longer distance travel, improved intercity bus service, especially to Manhattan.
4. A non-electrified commuter rail service over a modestly upgraded railroad line which extends beyond the presently envisioned terminals to more marketable terminals -- Downingtown or beyond instead of Glenloch, and Trenton or beyond instead of Morrisville.
5. Some combination of these and other alternatives.

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
IN THE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS**

The RCC believes that the current "public meeting" format for studies such as the Cross County Metro is inadequate and potentially manipulative. It does not respond to the spirit of ISTEA requirements for public participation. The public meeting format means simultaneous conversations between individual members of the public and individual planners. The media is unable to report public comments back to their readers. Nothing is recorded in writing.

As a result, public views tend to be bottled up. The views of special interests and of planning and political communities will tend to dominate. The only way this can be avoided is to substitute conventional, media-reported public hearings for "public meetings" at each stage of the planning cycle for this and other major transportation projects.

The RCC asks the DVRPC Board to urge the City of Philadelphia to institute an \$80,000 match to comply with CMAQ requirements, thus moving forward with TIP project 9703 (the Bicycle Network of Philadelphia).