

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

BOARD COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of December 4, 2002

Location: Pen Ryn Mansion
1601 State Road
Bensalem, PA 19029

Membership Present

Representative

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs	(not represented)
New Jersey Department of Transportation	Brent Barnes
Governor of New Jersey's Appointee	Noreen Giblin
Governor of Pennsylvania's Appointee	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Governor's Policy Office	Robert E. Baker, Jr.
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation	Larry M. King
Bucks County	Charles H. Martin
Chester County	Colin A. Hanna Charles C. Coyne
Delaware County	John E. Pickett
Montgomery County	Kenneth Hughes
Burlington County	Carol Ann Thomas
Camden County	Thomas J. Gurick J. Douglas Griffith
Gloucester County	Charles E. Romick
Mercer County	(not represented)

City of Chester	William Payne
City of Philadelphia	Gary Jastrzab
City of Camden	(not represented)
City of Trenton	Andrew Carten
<u>Non-Voting Members</u>	
Federal Highway Administration New Jersey Division	Dennis L. Merida Lawrence Cullari
Pennsylvania Division	Spencer Stevens
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)
New Jersey Office of Smart Growth	Edward Fox
Federal Transit Administration, Region III	Keith Lynch
Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority	Christopher Patton
New Jersey Transit Corporation	Richard Roberts
Port Authority Transit Corporation	Linda Hayes
Delaware River Port Authority	Anisah Abiola
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	William Purdie
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	Patrick Anderson
Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development	Ronald K. Bednar
Regional Citizens Committee Chairman	Warren Strumpfer

DVRPC Co-Counsel

Pennsylvania Co-Counsel
New Jersey Co-Counsel

Timothy J. Carson
Thomas Coleman

DVRPC Staff: John J. Coscia, John B. Claffey, Barry Seymour, William Greene, Donald Shanis, Richard Bickel, John Griffies, Charles Dougherty, Candace Snyder, and Jean McKinney.

Guests

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Robert Hannigan
Greg Brown (Dist. 6-0)

New Jersey Department of Transportation

Jerry Mooney
Brian Cuccia

City of Philadelphia

Larry Wilson
Robert Ravelli

Regional Citizens Committee

Lorraine Brill

Newtown Township

Frank
Mendicino
George Bandenhorn
Jim Vock

Call to Order

Chairman Charles H. Martin called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Public Comments

Comments from the public were invited to be heard on non-agenda items.

Frank Mendicino, Newtown Township, presented to the Board the concerns of the citizens who live along Swamp Road in Newtown Township. A weight-restricted culvert on Swamp Road has been downgraded from 15 tons to 10 tons which now restricts quarry truck traffic heading from Wrightstown from using Swamp Road to get to the Newtown Bypass and I-95. Consequently, many quarry drivers use the two-lane residential roads. Residents say the heavy trucks are dangerous and are better suited for the four-lane Newtown Bypass. Residents have lobbied state and local officials to make repairs to Swamp Road and reopen it to quarry trucks.

Swamp Road residents say they support the repairs to the road, however want all improvements completed simultaneously instead of in phases to ensure the safe passage of trucks on the Road.

Congressman Jim Greenwood is lobbying for specific funding for Swamp road so that all the improvements could be completed at the same time.

Greg Brown, PennDOT, District 6-0, responded that plans are to repair the culvert at Worthington Mill Road as soon as possible. But, other improvements - such as shoulders and drainage - are programmed for completion in the same time period. However, if funding is allocated and the projects are ready; meaning all pre-construction phases are completed, then the two projects can be constructed simultaneously.

1. Minutes of Meeting of October 24, 2002

On a **motion** by Mr. Hanna, seconded by Ms. Thomas, the minutes of the meeting of October 24, 2002 were approved as distributed.

2. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Actions

John B. Claffey, DVRPC staff, briefed the Board on the following TIP Action:

- a. TIP Action PA03-04 - Route 202, Section 300 PA 252 to the Exton (Route 30) Bypass (Chester County)

Mr. Claffey explained that PennDOT has requested DVRPC amend the FY 2003 TIP for Pennsylvania (FY 2003-2006) by adding a FY 2003 preliminary design phase and a FY 2004 final design phase of Route 202, Section 300. The proposal includes final roadway design for the realignment of Cedar Hollow Road which requires widening of a bridge encroachment, and the preparation of final design write-ups (PS&E's) for the 4 portions of Section 300 that have been broken out into separate construction projects. The funding increase also includes an additional 1300 foot retaining wall. The request for funding would program \$1.436 million Highway/\$359,000 State in FY 2003 for preliminary design, \$4.396 million Highway/\$1.099 million State in FY 2004 for final design, and would acknowledge \$3.2 million in advance construct conversion funding.

Financial constraint will be maintained by making adjustments to existing TIP projects whose schedules or costs have changed and the TIP's conformity finding will not be impacted by this amendment as this project has already

been included in the conformity analysis.

Favorable recommendation was received from the Planning Coordinating Committee/Regional Transportation Committee (PCC/RTC).

The Regional Citizens Committee (RCC) recommended that the Board oppose the widening of Route 202 because of the new capacity that it represents. However, if the highway project is going to move forward, then the RCC recommends pedestrian and bicycle improvements to crossroads, specifically to Cedar Hollow Road, and that express bus service be considered.

John J. Coscia, Executive Director, responded that improvements to this portion of Route 202, Section 300 is sorely needed, however the RCC's recommendations will be forwarded to PennDOT for their consideration.

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

MOTION by Mr. King, seconded by Mr. Gurick, that the Board approve TIP Action PA03-04, PennDOT's request to modify the FY 2003 TIP for PA (FY2003-2006), by increasing the design phases for Route 202, Section 300 (Rt. 252 to the Exton Bypass.) The request would program a \$1.795 million FY 2003 preliminary design phase (\$1.436 million Highway/\$359,000 State), a \$5.495 million FY 2004 final design phase (\$4.396 million Highway/\$1.099 million State), and acknowledge \$3.2 million in advance construct conversion funding in FY 2003.

3. Proposed Change to the Pennsylvania Highway Functional Classification System - Lafayette Street, Norristown (Montgomery County)

Mr. Claffey explained that Montgomery County has requested a change to the Pennsylvania Functional Classification System. The letter of request, including a map of the existing and proposed Functional Classification System was distributed to the Board.

Montgomery County's request involves both the existing section of Lafayette Street between the Dannehower Bridge (US 202, Markley Street via a new interchange) and Ford Street and the proposed extension of Lafayette Street from Ford Street to Conshohocken Road with a proposed new interchange with the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Lafayette Street is currently classified as Local. Montgomery County believes that this project, by providing a continuous east-west connector along the industrial waterfront between Markley Street (a Principal Arterial) and the Turnpike (an Interstate) and Conshohocken Road (a Minor Urban Arterial), will function as a Minor Arterial for its approximately 1.7 mile length.

Staff has reviewed the request and found it to be consistent with the federal Functional Classification System and its continuity.

Favorable recommendation was received from the PCC/RTC and the RCC. However, the RCC asks the DVRPC Board to forward to Montgomery County its concerns regarding the integrity of the Schuylkill Valley Trail, access to and from the Transportation Center, and the railroad grade crossing at Ford Street.

Kenneth Hughes, Montgomery County, responded that the issues mentioned by the RCC are being discussed and considered.

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

MOTION by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Pickett, that the Board approve the functional classification of the Lafayette Street (and its proposed extension) in Norristown, Montgomery County as an Urban Minor Arterial.

4. New Jersey Local Scoping Highway Program

Mr. Claffey explained to the Board that the purpose of this program is to provide Federal funds directly to member subregions for the advancement of projects through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and preliminary engineering, thereby developing a solution to a defined problem and making the project eligible for inclusion in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Two projects were identified as candidate projects through the work done under the New Jersey Problem Identification and Prioritization project. This project works to identify problem areas throughout the four New Jersey counties in our region and prioritize them for advancement either by NJDOT under its Study and Development program or by the member governments under local scoping .

Since these two projects are on local facilities they will be handled by the counties as local leads. The counties have thus requested that these projects be included into the Local Scoping Program.

- Florence-Columbus Road (CR656) - US 130 to I-295 (Burlington County)

Located in Florence Township, Burlington County, this section of roadway has

been identified, by the county from the results of previous work, as congested and having mobility problems. A study will be conducted to examine what can be done to improve traffic flow and turning movements along this section.

- Park Avenue Bridge (CR 641) over the Newton Creek (Camden County)

Located in Haddon Township, Camden County, the goal of this project is to identify and design improvements to the existing concrete bridge that has experienced road settlement.

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

MOTION by Mr. Barnes, seconded by Ms. Thomas, that the board approve the inclusion of the Florence-Columbus Road (CR 656) - US 130 to I-295 project and the Park Avenue Bridge project into the New Jersey Local Scoping Highway Program.

5. DVRPC FY 2003 Planning Work Program Amendments

- a. New Jersey State Highway Diversion Route Maps for Ocean County
New Jersey State Police

Barry Seymour explained to the Board that DVRPC will provide NJDOT, NJ State Police, Ocean County, and local emergency responders with up-to-date and accurate maps showing viable diversion routes for all interstates, expressways and state highways. Utilizing base map information provided by NJDOT and detour information provided by the New Jersey State Police, DVRPC will create mapping which shows primary and secondary diversion routes for specified segments of state highways. This mapping will be used to prepare Diversion Route Plans. Included in the materials to be developed under this project are:

- one set of draft maps for NJDOT/NJ State Police review;
- one set of draft accompanying pages containing written route description and contact information for NJDOT/NJ State Police review;
- one set of final maps;
- one set of final accompanying pages;
- 50 copies of final CD.

All production printing and assembly of hardcopy products will be the responsibility of NJDOT. DVRPC will produce 50 copies of CD version.

The project budget is \$51,500. Funding will come from New Jersey State Police.

After favorable recommendation by the DVRPC staff, the Board unanimously adopted the following **motion**:

Motion by Ms. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Payne, that the Board amend the DVRPC Fiscal Year 2003 Planning Work Program to include the New Jersey State Highway Diversion Route Maps for Ocean County, New Jersey project.

b. Pennsylvania Environmental Council Regional Recreational Open Space Priorities Report

Mr. Seymour explained to the Board that the Greenspace Alliance (GSA) of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council consists of an assembly of land conservation trusts augmented and advised by county and regional planning officials and interested citizens in the 5-county Greater Philadelphia region. The Alliance seeks to produce a Regional Open Space Priorities Report identifying areas of open space recommended for protection in the region. The report is to be organized into three sections, each separately addressing agricultural, ecological and recreational priorities. Each section is being developed by a subcontractor, with guidance from a small advisory committee. The Brandywine Conservancy will work on the agriculture section, the Natural Lands Trust will develop the ecological priorities piece, and the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission will develop the recreational priorities piece. The recreational priorities piece will involve defining recreational open space acreage goals based on DVRPC's Recreational Open Space Needs Analysis, mapping passive recreational facilities and selected historic landscapes, and defining and applying criteria for new outdoor recreational open space. Upon completion of each section, DVRPC will then collaborate with the other subcontractors and GSA to produce a fourth, combined section that will highlight the overall open space priorities for the region. The report is intended to promote a better understanding of which areas to focus on for land protection, which projects to seek state and local funding for, and which projects to present to private funding sources as candidates for assistance.

\$12,500 from the Pennsylvania Environmental Council matched by \$12,500 from DVRPC Greenways and Open Space Planning Project (Project Code 3-

53-020)

After favorable recommendation was received from the DVRPC staff, the Board unanimously adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Mr. Baker, seconded by Mr. Jastrzab that the Board amend the DVRPC FY2003 Planning Work Program to include Regional Recreational Open Space Priorities Report for Southeastern Pennsylvania.

6. DVRPC Draft Fiscal Year 2004 Planning Work Program

Mr. Coscia explained to the Board that the priority projects for the DVRPC FY 2004 Planning Work Program have been selected and authorization is needed to distribute for review and comment the Draft Fiscal Year 2004 Planning Work Program consisting of: (1) DVRPC's Regular Work Program, (2) Supportive Regional Highway Planning Program (SRHPP), and (3) Transit Support Program (TSP). The Planning Work Program reflects the policy direction provided by the Board's Planning Work Program Committee and the input from member governments, operating agencies and other regional organizations.

Comments should be submitted to DVRPC by January 10, 2003 and an addendum, if needed, will be prepared by January 23, 2003. Final submission for funding is March 1, 2003.

After favorable recommendation was received from the Board Work Program Committee and the DVRPC staff, the Board unanimously adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Mr. Carten, seconded by Mr. Hughes that the Board authorize distribution of the Draft DVRPC Fiscal Year 2004 Planning Work Program (distributed to the Board) for review and comment.

7. Regional Citizens Report

In the absence of Patrick Starr, RCC Chair, Warren Strumpfer, RCC, reported on an additional item of recommendation to the Board. The RCC has adopted the following position regarding future transportation projects:

Every transportation project and program has an impact on bicyclists and pedestrians; that impact should be positive. A seamless network of on-street

bicycling and walking facilities, trails and transit should connect homes, jobs, schools, shopping, families, friends and other origins. Investments in new and existing road and transit facilities must accommodate safe bicycling and walking. State and local transportation plans should ensure safe access for bicyclists and pedestrians, especially at intersections.

Donald Shanis, DVRPC staff, responded that all transportation projects examine the feasibility of bicycle and pedestrian access.

8. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Coscia reported on the following:

- a. Regional Preparedness Meeting, November 13, 2002, Philadelphia Managing Director's Office

Mr. Coscia reported that the purpose of the meeting was for agencies, public and private to discuss emergency preparedness plans. In an emergency, incident management is performed; but somewhat in an isolated manner. Several regional preparedness meetings have been held to discuss efforts to bring together the roles and responsibilities of all agencies. For coordination and documentation, a comprehensive regional action plan needs to be developed. The possibility for DVRPC to get involved with preparing a Regional Emergency Coordination Plan needs to be discussed with the Board. These items will be discussed at the next Board Policy Analysis Committee meeting.

- b. National Governors' Association Meeting, Salt Lake City, November 18-20

Mr. Coscia reported that six states, including Pennsylvania, have been selected by the National Governors' Association to develop state-wide programs linking transportation and land use. A Pennsylvania position paper will be developed for the Governor specifying what actions need to be taken to accomplish this task and a series of regional conferences will be held in addition to a state-wide Governor's Conference.

- c. Central New Jersey Forum

Mr. Coscia reported that the Central New Jersey Forum would be held on December 5, 2002. Governor McGreevey will be in attendance to discuss New Jersey's Smart Growth initiatives.

Mr. Coscia also pointed out the flyer (distributed to the Board) announcing

Governor McGreevey's 1st Annual Transportation Conference scheduled for January 7, 2003 and encouraged the Board members to attend.

d. Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI) Program Guide

Mr. Coscia pointed out to the Board the TCDI 2003 Program Guide and Grant Application Forms (distributed to the Board). Three briefing sessions will be held as follows:

December 9, 2002 (4-6 p.m.): Camden County Lindenwold Complex

December 10, 2002 (4-6 p.m.): DVRPC

December 11, 2002 (4-6 p.m.): Delaware County Government Center Building

9. Committee Reports

The following Committee Reports were distributed to the Board for their review:
(1) Planning Coordinating Committee/Regional Transportation Committee;
and (2) Regional Citizens Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was stated.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was stated.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

Attachments:

- (1) PCC/RTC Recommendations to the Board for December 4, 2002
- (2) RCC Recommendations to the Board for December 4, 2002

Additional Documents Distributed to the Board:

- (1) DVRPC *Environmental Justice Chronicle*, Winter 2002 Issue
- (2) The Regional Emergency Coordination Plan

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of December 4, 2002

Location: Pen Ryn Mansion
1601 State Road
Bensalem, PA

Membership Present

Representative

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation	Larry M. King
New Jersey Department of Transportation	Brent Barnes
New Jersey Governor's Appointee	Noreen Giblin
Pennsylvania Governor's Appointee	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Governor's Policy Office	Robert E. Baker, Jr.
Pennsylvania Counties	Charles H. Martin Lynn Bush
New Jersey Counties	Thomas J. Gurick J. Douglas Griffith
City of Camden	(not represented)
City of Philadelphia	Gary Jastrzab

Guests

Chester County	Colin A. Hanna Charles C. Coyne
Delaware County	John E. Pickett
Montgomery County	Kenneth Hughes

Burlington County
Gloucester County
City of Chester

Carol Ann Thomas
Charles E. Romick
William Payne

City of Trenton

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Jerry Mooney
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Federal Highway Administration
New Jersey Division

Dennis L. Merida
Lawrence Cullari

Pennsylvania Division

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DVRPC Staff: John J. Coscia, John B. Claffey, Barry Seymour, William Greene, Donald Shanis, Richard Bickel, John Griffies, Charles Dougherty, Candace Snyder, and Jean McKinney.

Call to Order

Chairman Martin called the meeting to order at 2:57 p.m.

1. Minutes of Meeting of October 24, 2002

On a **motion** by Mr. Baker, seconded by Mr. Barnes, the minutes of the meeting of October 24, 2002 were approved as distributed.

2. Contract Authorizations

a. New Jersey State Highway Diversion Route Maps for Ocean County - New Jersey State Police

Mr. Coscia explained that DVRPC will provide NJDOT, NJ State Police, Ocean County, and local emergency responders with up-to-date and accurate maps showing viable diversion routes for all interstates, expressways and state highways. Utilizing base map information provided by NJDOT and detour information provided by the New Jersey State Police, DVRPC will create mapping which shows primary and secondary diversion routes for specified segments of state highways. This mapping will be used to prepare Diversion Route Plans.

The Executive Committee unanimously adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. Gurick that the Executive Committee authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with New Jersey State Police for DVRPC to provide New Jersey State Highway Diversion Route Maps for Ocean County.

b. Pennsylvania Environmental Council Regional Recreation Open Space Priorities Report

Mr. Coscia explained to the Board that DVRPC will develop the recreational priorities piece for the Pennsylvania Environmental Council's Regional Recreational Open Space Priorities Report. The recreational priorities piece will involve defining recreational open space acreage goals based on DVRPC's Recreational Open Space Needs Analysis, mapping passive recreational facilities and selected historic landscapes, and defining and applying criteria for new outdoor recreational open space. Upon completion of each section, DVRPC will then collaborate with the other subcontractors and GSA to produce a fourth, combined section that will highlight the overall open space priorities for the region. The report is intended to promote a better understanding of which areas to focus on for land protection, which projects to seek state and local funding for, and which projects to present to private funding sources as candidates for assistance.

The Executive Committee unanimously adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Mr. Baker, seconded by Mr. Jastrzab, that the Executive Committee authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with the Pennsylvania Environmental Council for DVRPC to develop the recreational priorities piece for the Regional Recreational Open Space Priorities Report for Southeastern Pennsylvania.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was stated.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was stated.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.