

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

BOARD COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of May 27, 2010

Location: Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
190 N. Independence Mall West, 8th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Membership Present

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
New Jersey Department of Transportation
New Jersey Governor's Appointee
Pennsylvania Governor's Appointee
Pennsylvania Governor's Policy Office
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Bucks County
Chester County

Delaware County
Montgomery County
Burlington County
Camden County

Gloucester County
Mercer County
City of Chester
City of Philadelphia
City of Camden
City of Trenton

Non-Voting Members

Federal Highway Administration
New Jersey Division
Pennsylvania Division
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
Development, Region III
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region II
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III

Representative

Joyce Paul
David Kuhn
David Reiner
David Mandelbaum
Ronald Bednar
James Ritzman
James Mosca
Diane Ellis-Marseglia
Carol Aichele
Ronald Bailey
John Pickett
Kenneth Hughes
Carol Ann Thomas
Louis Cappelli, Jr. Esq.
Andrew Levecchia
Richard Westergaard
Donna Lewis
William Payne
Steve Buckley
Edward Williams
(not represented)

(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)

Federal Transit Administration, Region III
Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority
New Jersey Transit Corporation
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Delaware River Port Authority
Port Authority Transit Corporation
Pennsylvania Department of Community and
Economic Development
New Jersey Office of Smart Growth
Regional Citizens Committee Chair

Anthony Tarone
Byron Comati
(not represented)
(not represented)
Kevin Gallagher
Linda Hayes
(not represented)

(not represented)
James Requa
Aissia Richardson

DVRPC Co-Counsel

Pennsylvania Co-Counsel
New Jersey Co-Counsel

(not represented)
Thomas Coleman

DVRPC Staff: Barry J. Seymour, Donald Shanis, Richard Bickel, Charles Dougherty, John Ward, Patty Elkis, Elizabeth Schoonmaker, Suzanne McCarthy, Chris Puchalsky, Rob Graff, Phyllis Robinson, Candace Snyder, and Jean McKinney.

Guests

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
New Jersey Turnpike Authority
New Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
South Jersey Transportation Authority
Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority
New Jersey Transit

Linda Guarini (Dist. 6-0)
Brian Wahler
Ted Ritter
Jim Hartman
Catherine Popp-McDonough
Louis Millan
Donna Ray
Glenn Reibman

Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission
Cross County Connection Transportation
Management Association
Cubic Transportation Systems Inc.
Pillar Solutions, LLC
ICF International

William Ragozine
Freddie Fuller, II
Emeka Mowen
Matthew Day

Call to Order - Chair's Comments

Chair Louis Cappelli, Jr. Esq. called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

No public comments were stated.

1. Minutes of Meeting of April 22, 2010

On a Motion by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Kuhn, the minutes of the Board Meeting of April 22, 2010 were approved as distributed.

2. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Actions

Elizabeth Schoonmaker, DVRPC Manager, Capital Programming, presented the following TIP Actions for approval.

a. PA09-99: Silo Hill Road over North Branch Neshaminy Creek Bridge Rehabilitation Project (MPMS #85465), Bucks County

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2009-2012 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP, Silo Hill Road over North Branch Neshaminy Creek Bridge Rehabilitation Project (MPMS #85465), and programming construction in FY10 (\$225,000 State/\$56,000 Local) in order to reimburse Bucks county for the emergency rehabilitation of the bridge.

This bridge is located in Plumstead township and was closed to traffic in early 2009. Bucks County has recently completed the emergency rehabilitation of this Pratt Pony Truss bridge built in 1886, using the liquid fuels construction procedures and is seeking retro-reimbursement for the construction costs.

Financial constraint will be maintained by making adjustments to other existing TIP projects whose schedules or costs have changed and the TIP's current conformity finding will not be impacted by this amendment as this project is exempt from regional air quality analysis.

b. PA09-100: Chester Waterfront Rail Crossings (Various MPMS#s), Delaware County

- 1. Highland Avenue Grade Crossing (MPMS #90473)**
- 2. Flower Street Grade Crossing (MPMS #90477)**
- 3. Norris Street (1) Grade Crossing (MPMS #90478)**
- 4. Norris Street (2) Grade Crossing (MPMS #90480)**

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2009-2012 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding four new Chester Waterfront Rail Crossing projects to

the TIP, funded with \$1,500,000 Statewide Discretionary Economic Development funds additional to the region. The four rail crossing projects include:

Highland Avenue Grade Crossing (MPMS# 90473) - \$467,000
Flower Street Grade Crossing (MPMS# 90477) - \$607,000
Norris Street (1) Grade Crossing (MPMS# 90478) - \$251,000
Norris Street (2) Grade Crossing (MPMS# 90480) - \$175,000

The rail crossing improvements will help facilitate and accelerate the Chester Waterfront Redevelopment Project, a \$47 million effort to revitalize and redevelop the City of Chester. The rail crossing improvement projects are ready to advance to construction and will include pavement repair, upgrading gates and flashers, pedestrian gates and access points, and curbing and roadway markings. The completion of these projects will provide several benefits to the region including redevelopment of a formal industrial site to its highest and best use,; streamlined rail freight services along the Chester Industrial Track, increased safety across the regional transportation network through a reduction in rail/vehicular/pedestrian conflicts as the Chester Waterfront Redevelopment project is fully implemented, and significant job creation and revenue generation opportunities at the local and statewide levels.

Financial constraint will not be impacted by this amendment as these are additional funds to the region and the TIP's current conformity finding will not be impacted by this modification as this project is exempt from air quality analysis.

c. PA09-101: Lehigh Avenue, Ridge Avenue to Broad Street, Signal Improvement Project (MPMS #62717), Philadelphia

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2009-2012 TIP for Pennsylvania by programming a final design phase in FY10 (\$360,000 CMAQ/\$90,000 Local) for Lehigh Avenue, Ridge Avenue to Broad Street, Signal Improvement Project (MPMS #62717). This project is already programmed for construction, but final design was never authorized.

This project will include the upgrade of 19 existing signalized intersections along Lehigh Avenue between Ridge Avenue and Broad Street with new traffic signal mastarms and new conduit. The signalized intersections will also be interconnected with fiber optic cable. This project will also require minor curb and sidewalk replacement and the installation of underground concrete mastarm foundations at some of the intersections. The completion of this project will help to modernize traffic signal equipment and to improve pedestrian safety conditions along the Lehigh Avenue West corridor.

Financial constraint will be maintained by making adjustments to other existing TIP projects whose schedules or costs have changed and the TIP's current conformity finding will not be impacted by this modification as this project is already included in the regional air quality analysis.

Favorable recommendation was received from the Planning Coordinating Committee/Regional Transportation Committee (PCC/RTC) that the Board approve TIP Actions PA09-99, PA09-100, and PA09-101.

The Regional Citizens Committee (RCC) recommended that the Board approve TIP Actions PA09-99, PA09-100. The RCC also recommended approval of TIP Action PA99-101; however, the RCC Action Task Force recommends that bus shelters be equitably distributed along major transit routes throughout Philadelphia as the city reviews its new street furniture contract.

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

MOTION by Mr. Ritzman, seconded by Mr. Payne, that the Board approve the following TIP Actions:

- (1) PA09-99: PennDOT's request to amend the FY2009-2012 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP, Silo Hill Road over North Branch Neshaminy Creek Bridge Rehabilitation Project (MPMS #85465), and programming construction in FY10 (\$225,000 State/\$56,000 Local) in order to reimburse Bucks County for the emergency rehabilitation of the bridge.

- (2) PA09-100: PennDOT's request to amend the FY2009-2012 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding four new Chester Waterfront Rail Crossing projects to the TIP, funded with \$1,500,000 Statewide Discretionary Economic Development funds additional to the region:

Highland Avenue Grade Crossing (MPMS# 90473) - \$467,000
Flower Street Grade Crossing (MPMS# 90477) - \$607,000
Norris Street (1) Grade Crossing (MPMS# 90478) - \$251,000
Norris Street (2) Grade Crossing (MPMS# 90480) - \$175,000

- (3) PA09-101: PennDOT's request to modify the FY2009-2012 TIP for Pennsylvania by programming a final design phase in FY10 (\$360,000 CMAQ/\$90,000 Local) for Lehigh Avenue, Ridge Avenue to Broad Street, Signal Improvement Project (MPMS# 62717).

d. **NJ10-47: Reprogramming of Local Funds Available to the New Jersey Subregion, Various Counties**

DVRPC requested that the New Jersey subcommittee of the RTC (Regional Transportation Committee) be designated to make project recommendations to the DVRPC Board regarding the reprogramming of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) low Bid Savings, STP-STU, and any other funds that might be available for New Jersey Local Projects, since a full project list was not available at the May 10, 2010, RTC meeting.

Towards the end of the federal fiscal year, local STP-STU and CMAQ funded projects that have been identified as slipping in schedule may make funds available for other projects to advance. Additionally, it is anticipated that additional low bid savings from construction contracts will be realized on ARRA projects that are to be awarded during May and June, and it is prudent to line up projects to potentially take advantage of funds that might be made available.

A list of proposed projects and available funds was distributed to the Board.

Financial constraint will be maintained by making adjustments to other existing TIP projects whose schedules or costs have changed and the TIP's current conformity finding will not be impacted by the proposed amendments or modifications as these projects will be exempt from, or already included in the regional air quality analysis.

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

MOTION by Mr. Kuhn, seconded by Ms. Thomas, that the Board approve TIP Action NJ10-47, to accept funding recommendations of the New Jersey Subcommittee of the RTC for project funds available in the DVRPC New Jersey Subregion.

3. **DVRPC Fiscal Year 2010 Planning Work Program amendment: South Jersey Bus Rapid Transit Modeling Support, Gloucester and Camden Counties**

Chris Puchalsky, DVRPC Manager, Office of Modeling and Analysis, explained to the Board that /New Jersey Transit (NJT) is studying the potential for Bus Rapid Transit Service on the Route 42/55/Atlantic City Expressway corridor. This requires the use of a travel demand forecasting model to assess the impacts of various alternatives. DVRPC will provide the DVRPC regional travel demand model to NJT and support both NJT and their consultants for the duration of the study. DVRPC will also perform additional calibration and validation on the model so as to be suitable for the Federal Transit Authority compliant analysis in the corridor. As an

optional Task, DVRPC will also fine tune the model so as to be suitable for studying a Light Rail Transit line from Camden to Glassboro.

The estimated cost is \$60,000 for the main tasks, \$26,000 for the optional task, funded by New Jersey Transit.

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

MOTION by Ms. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Buckley, that the Board amend the DVRPC FY 2010 Planning Work Program to include the South Jersey Bus Rapid Transit Modeling Support Project.

4. Proposed Amendment to the Tri-County Water Quality Management Plan: Expansion of the Sewer Service Area of the Harrison Township/Mullica Hill Sewage Treatment Plant, Gloucester County

Suzanne McCarthy, DVRPC Manager, Office of Environmental Planning, explained to the Board that in 1984, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) implemented a procedure to ensure that all requests for water quality permits are consistent with approved Wastewater Management Plans and the Tri-County Water Quality Management Plan. New Jersey DEP reviews all permit applications and for those which are inconsistent with Wastewater Management Plans or the Tri-County Water Quality Management Plan, the applicant may elect to seek a plan amendment.

DVRPC is the designated area-wide water quality management planning agency for the Tri-County area (Burlington, Camden and Gloucester counties), and DVRPC approval is one of several that amendment applicants must receive before New Jersey DEP will consider the amendment package to be complete.

The following amendment has been requested:

Amendment to the Tri-County Water Quality Management Plan and the Harrison Township Wastewater Management Plan, on behalf of the Archdiocese of Camden, to expand the Harrison Township/Mullica Hill sewer service area to serve a proposed Catholic high School to be located on Bridgeton Pike (Route 77) in Harrison Township, Gloucester County.

Favorable recommendation was received from the Tri-County Water Quality Management Board.

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

MOTION by Mr. Westergaard, seconded by Ms. Lewis, that the Board approve the Proposed Amendment to the Tri-County Water Quality Management Plan and the Harrison Township Wastewater Management Plan by adopting Resolution No. B-FY10-012 (copy attached).

5. Nominating Committee Report: Proposed Candidates for Fiscal Year 2011 DVRPC Board Officers

Barry Seymour, DVRPC Executive Director, announced the Nominating Committees' recommended candidates for Board officers for Fiscal Year 2011 (July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011) DVRPC Board Officers as follows.

Chair: Joseph M. Hoeffel, Montgomery County
Vice Chair: James Simpson/David Kuhn, New Jersey Department of Transportation
Secretary: Louis Cappelli, Camden County
Treasurer: Diane Ellis-Marseglia

Elections will take place at the June Board meeting at which time nominations will also be taken from the floor.

6. Regional Citizens Committee (RCC) Report

Aissia Richardson, RCC Chair, reported the activities from the RCC Meeting of May 18, 2010.

Ms. Richardson called the Board's attention to a Resolution adopted by the RCC and read its contents (attached as part of these minutes). The resolutions' focus was on the Jenkintown-Wyncote Region Commuter Preferences and Parking Needs Study.

Byron Comati, SEPTA, responded and commented that these issues are very complicated and SEPTA is continuing with the design phase for structured parking at the Jenkintown Station. Mr. Comati explained that there is no funding to move forward after design into a construction phase. This station is crucial because so many lines feed into it, and although SEPTA has examined parking issues, the total equation must address all commuter needs.

7. SEPTA's Fiscal Year 2011 Capital Budget and Twelve Year Capital Program

Catherine Popp-McDonough, SEPTA's Director of Capital Budgets, presented to the Board an overview of SEPTA, its infrastructure needs, capital funding sources, deferred projects, and the SEPTA Capital Budget.

SEPTA has 280 stations, 341 bridges, 58 power substations, 927 track miles, and 2,765 vehicles to maintain. The bridges average 81 years old and 22% are more than 100 years old with 15% of bridges in "poor condition." The substations average 75 years old. Over 38% of the 280 SEPTA stations require significant repair or complete replacement.

Capital Funding Sources consist of three categories: (1) Federal (SAFETEA-LU); (2) State (Act 44); and (3) Local (counties and City of Philadelphia). As a result of a loss in state funding, SEPTA will lose \$110 million a year in their capital budget which equates to a 25% drop in annual funding.

With less funding, SEPTA will be forced to defer 22 projects (list distributed to the Board) totaling over \$700 million. These specific projects were selected because no contracts have yet been awarded, however, design of some of these projects is moving forward.

Mr. Seymour called the Board's attention to the Press Release (distributed to the Board) which lists the deferred projects in the DVRPC region and the deferred SEPTA projects.

Ms. Popp-McDonough then stated that the SEPTA Fiscal Year 2011 Capital Budget totals \$303.7 million. SEPTA will focus on limited funding which will have to comply with financial and contractual obligations, federal mandates, and essential vehicle replacement and rehabilitation programs.

Mr. Seymour added that he will be testifying at the House Transportation Committee Legislative Hearings on June 4, 2010 to address the impacts of the loss of Act 44 funding and provide some viable solutions.

Mr. Comati reported that SEPTA would also be testifying at the Legislative Hearings and SEPTA also has been attempting to partner with the private sector in support of funding options for infrastructure and transit.

Ms. Richardson, inquired about the status of the Silver Liner 5 project.

Ms. Popp-McDonough responded that the Silver Liner 5 project is moving forward. The rail cars will be leased and the cars should all be here by July 2011. There are 57 car shells already in Philadelphia, 12 are in route, and 40 are in various stages of manufacture. One pilot car is currently being tested on the airport line.

8. Overview of Assistance to Local Governments for Energy Efficiency and Greenhouse Gas Reduction

Rob Graff, DVRPC Manager, Office of Energy and Climate Change Initiatives, presented to the Board DVRPC's planning assistance to local governments for energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction (GHG).

A DVRPC Advisory Group was formed and has developed a toolkit for local governments to help them identify the most cost-effective solution to GHG emissions and evaluate reduction options (e.g. streetlights, traffic signals, fuel use, etc.). The Advisory Group has developed GHS emissions data and encourages municipalities and counties to use this data to: (1) support their inventory efforts; and (2) support analysis of where investments in energy conservation and efficiency might be most productively made.

9. Executive Director's Report

a. Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Policy Statement

Mr. Seymour pointed out the DBE Policy Statement (distributed to the Board) which ensures that minorities have an opportunity to receive and participate in DOT-assisted contracts.

b. Meeting with NJDOT Commissioner Simpson

Mr. Seymour, Freeholder Cappelli, and David Kuhn met with Commissioner Simpson at NJDOT to discuss issues and challenges facing New Jersey. A tour will be scheduled for Commissioner Simpson to view some New Jersey projects.

c. Glassboro/Camden Line Scoping and Public Meetings

Mr. Seymour reported that public meetings were held for comments on the EIS for the Glassboro/Camden Line Scoping.

Linda Hayes, Delaware River Port Authority, added that the public meeting turnout was very high and approximately 90% of comments were positive.

d. New Jersey Food Marketing Task Force

Mr. Seymour reported that DVRPC has been asked to participate in the New Jersey Food Marketing Task Force; a joint initiative between the Food Trust and non-profits which promote Farmers' Markets and Supermarkets in underserved areas.

e. Regional Community and Economic Development Forum

Mr. Seymour reported that the Regional Community and Economic Development Forum is scheduled to meet at DVRPC on June 3, 2010. Discussions on both the state of the economy and forecasts for the future of the economy will take place. Also, an update of DVRPC's Greater Philadelphia Economic Development framework will be developed.

f. Sustainable Communities Grant

Mr. Seymour reported that HUD has now announced that the guidelines for the Sustainable Communities Grant will be released in June.

g. Pennsylvania House Transportation Committee Hearing

Mr. Seymour reported that he will be testifying in DVRPC's behalf at the Pennsylvania House Transportation Committee Hearings on June 4, 2010 at St. Joseph's University at 10:00 a.m.

h. Greater Valley Forge Transportation Management Association (GVFTMA) Award

Mr. Seymour congratulated Jerry Coyne, DVRPC Manager, Office of Transportation Studies, for winning the GVFTMA Planning Leadership Award.

i. DVRPC Annual Dinner

Mr. Seymour reported that the Annual Dinner was a great success and thanked the Board and all who attended.

10. Committee Reports

a. Planning Coordinating Committee/Regional Transportation Committee

Donald Shanis, DVRPC Deputy Executive Director, commented that the PCC/RTC Committee actions were reported as stated in the Board actions above.

In addition, the PCC/RTC had two presentations: (1) *Campus Circulation: A Study of Multi-Modal Access* presented by Anne Papageorge and Mark Kocent; and (2) *TIGER Funded Bike and Pedestrian Trails in the DVRPC Region* presented by Steve Buckley.

b. Transportation Operations Task Force

John Ward, DVRPC Associate Director Planning Division, Intermodal Planning Unit, reported the highlights of the May 24, 2010 Transportation Operations Task Force.

Mr. Ward introduced the new Chair, Bill Ragozine, Cross County Connections TMA and the Vice Chair, Lou Belmonte, PennDOT.

Two minute reports were given from the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, Delaware River Port Authority, NJDOT, and PennDOT.

The following presentations were given: (1) Stan Platt, DVRPC, *Philadelphia Traffic Operations Center Concept of Operations*; (2) Jim Hadden, NJDOT, *Traveler Information Website Updates*; (3) Rick Murphy, DVRPC, *Regional Fiber Communication Inventory*; and (4) Chris King, DVRPC, *RIMIS Update*.

10. One Minute Reports

William Payne, City of Chester, reported that the transformation of the Chester waterfront has taken place over the last seven years which now includes a race track, casino, office park, and the newest addition; a soccer stadium.

David Kuhn, NJDOT, commented that projects being submitted to NJDOT for authorization need to be in no later than September, 2010. The \$652 million AARA projects have been obligated and New Jersey needs to be diligent in spending these funds.

Carol Aichele, Chester County, reported that the county will be holding a public meeting the evening of May 27, 2010 to announce the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Task Force Report. Approximately 75 community volunteers participated in the development of the report.

Byron Comati, SEPTA, reported that the SEPTA will be featured in a National Geographic special which will be televised on June 10, 2010 as part of their Tough Fixes series.

Donna Lewis, Mercer County, reported that the Kahn Bath House has been purchased by Mercer County for Ewing Township and will be restored as a municipal pool. Completion is expected by the end of Summer, 2010.

Steve Buckley, City of Philadelphia, announced that the City's Sustainability Process is now on their website.

Anthony Tarone, Federal Transit Administration, announced that he would be replacing Keith Lynch as representative to the Board.

Mr. Seymour informed the Board that the Federal Certification Review for DVRPC will be held the first week of August.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was stated.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was stated.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Attachments:

- (1) PCC/RTC Recommendations to the Board for May 27, 2010
- (2) RCC Recommendations to the Board for May 27, 2010

Additional Documents Distributed to the Board:

- (1) Alert, May 2010

DVRPC fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. DVRPC's website may be translated into Spanish, Russian, and Traditional Chinese online by visiting www.dvrpc.org. Publications and other public documents can be made available in alternative languages or formats, if requested. For more information, please call (215) 238-2871.