

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

BOARD COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of October 28, 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
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
New Jersey Governor's Appointee
Pennsylvania Governor's Appointee
Pennsylvania Governor's Policy Office
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

Representative

James Requa
David Kuhn
Adam Grimes
David Reiner
(not represented)
Joanne Denworth
Diane Ellis-Marseglia
Lynn Bush
Carol Aichele
John Pickett
Joseph Hoeffel
Kenneth Hughes
Carol Ann Thomas
Louis Cappelli, Jr., Esq.
Andrew Levecchia
Richard Westergaard
Donna Lewis
(not represented)
Rina Cutler
(not represented)
(not represented)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III
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

Megan Mackey
(not represented)
Byron Comati
Lou Millan
(not represented)
Kevin Gallagher
(not represented)
(not represented)

Toni Crawford-Major
Ronald Bednar
(not represented)
Aissia Richardson

New Jersey Office of Smart Growth
Regional Citizens Committee Chair

DVRPC Co-Counsel

Pennsylvania Co-Counsel
New Jersey Co-Counsel

Thomas Jennings
Thomas Coleman

DVRPC Staff: Barry J. Seymour, Donald Shanis, Richard Bickel, Charles Dougherty, John Ward, Patty Elkis, Roger Moog, Elizabeth Smith, Candace Snyder, and Jean McKinney.

Guests

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (Dist. 6)
New Jersey Department of Transportation
Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority

Linda Guarini
Sue Pigula
Jeff Kneuppel
Robert Lund
William Ragozine
Bill Felix
James Luten

Cross County Connection TMA
Urban Engineers
Citizen

Call to Order - Chair's Comments

Chair Joseph M. Hoeffel called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m.

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

No public comments were stated.

1. **Minutes of Meeting of September 23, 2010**

On a Motion by Mr. Levecchia, seconded by Mr. Kuhn the minutes of the Board Meeting of September 23, 2010 were approved as distributed.

2. **Approval of DVRPC Recommended Projects for the Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiatives (PCTI)**

Elizabeth Smith, DVRPC Project Implementation Coordinator, explained to the board that the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) has allocated \$24 million in Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiatives funds statewide for the 2011-2012 funding cycle.

The Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiatives Program will be administered by the PennDOT Central Office. They will be performing the application scoring and selection of projects statewide for the program. In order to ensure that regional input is considered, they asked DVRPC to provide a list of recommended projects for their consideration during the scoring and selection process. PennDOT provided the criteria that will be used to score each application.

The 65 applications received for our region were sent to the members of the Regional Transportation Committee (RTC) Pennsylvania Subcommittee and representatives of the Regional Citizens Committee (RCC) for review along with the score sheet that PennDOT proposes to utilize for their scoring and selection process. The members reviewed the applications and based upon their recommendations 13 projects (list of projects distributed to the Board) were selected.

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

MOTION by Ms. Denworth, seconded by Mr. Pickett, that the Board approve the 13 recommended projects selected by the RTC Pennsylvania Subcommittee and forward to PennDOT as DVRPC's recommended Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiatives projects for our region.

3. **Approval of DVRPC Board meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2011**

Barry Seymour, DVRPC Executive Director, called the Board's attention to the action item sheet (distributed to the Board) listing the DVRPC Board Meeting Schedule for calendar year 2011.

On a **motion** by Ms. Aichele, seconded by Mr. Kuhn, the Board unanimously approved the Board Meeting Schedule for calendar year 2011 (copy attached as part of these minutes).

4. **One Minute Reports**

Louis Milan, New Jersey Transit, reported that the South New Jersey Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project and the Atlantic City Rail Study have been put on hold.

Byron Comati, SEPTA, reported that the revenue test runs for the new Silverliner V Commuter Trains are ready to begin. The trains will run on the Cynwyd Branch

Ronald Bednar, Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, reported that the final decisions are being made for this years' projects.

Joanne Denworth, Pennsylvania Governor's Policy Office, reported on two Senate Bills: (1) Senate Bill 900 which gives municipalities control in bringing code violations into compliance; and (2) Bill 712, developed for the Pennsylvania land bank jurisdiction to decide how to use the tax bank to their advantage.

Adam Grimes, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, reported that PennDOT held their Planning Partners Meeting. The main focus of the meeting was linking planning with the NEPA process.

David Kuhn, New Jersey Department of Transportation, reported that NJDOT's engineering and design contracts are still being evaluated, however, the planning contracts are moving forward.

Chair Hoeffel, Montgomery County, reported that Montgomery County has formed a nine-member Transportation Authority developed to help with transportation projects in the county.

Louis Cappelli, Camden County, reported that a ground breaking ceremony was held for a new Medical School which will open in the fall of 2012. Freeholder Cappelli also reported that the county is working with Rutgers University to erect a new dormitory.

Commissioner Aichele, Chester County, reported on the overwhelming enthusiasm which has been displayed in her county for the Chester Valley Trail.

John Pickett, Delaware County, reported that on November 9 the county will purchase open space (Mineral Hill) along the Ridley Creek. This open space will has many valuable natural features and will become part of the county's park system.

Donna Lewis, Mercer County, reported that on November 9-11 at the Loews Hotel a conference will be held entitled Partners for Community Forestry. This conference is open to the public.

Rina Cutler, City of Philadelphia, reported that the South Street Bridge will reopen on November 6. An opening ceremony will take place at 3:00 p.m. before the bridge is open to vehicular traffic.

Ms. Cutler also reported that she will be a moderator for an event at the Academy of Natural Science entitled *Cycling for Cities*. The event takes place from 7-9 p.m. on October 28, 2010.

Aissia Richardson, RCC Chair, reported that the RCC is looking forward to some upcoming presentations at their meetings. The Greater Philadelphia Marketing and Tourism Commission will present *Mapping and Signage* at the Philadelphia International Airport and the Pennsylvania Department of General Services will present the process used by the Energy Services Company (ESCO).

5. Development of the FY 2012 DVRPC Planning Work Program

Mr. Seymour mentioned that there was a Board Work Program Committee meeting preceding the Board Meeting and asked for any further discussion. Three projects Financing Study; Airport Capacity Study; and Flood Routing Study are in need of further discussion. Mr. Seymour then reminded the Board of the Board Policy Committee Meeting scheduled for November 18, 2010 and urged all to attend.

6. Regional Citizens Committee (RCC) Report

Aissia Richardson, RCC Chair, reported the activities from the RCC Meeting of October 12, 2010.

The following presentations were made to the RCC: (1) a presentation from Martin Kotsch of the United States Environmental Protection Agency on the *Clean Air Act and Transportation Conformity*; (2) Jane Meconi, DVRPC Public Involvement Manager and Meghan Weir, DVRPC Transportation Planner, presented an overview of the *Environmental Justice Work Program Area and the Public Participation, Information, and Visualization Techniques Work Program Project* and (3) Allison Hastings, Senior Environmental Planner, Office of Environmental Planning, presented the DVRPC *Food System Study*.

7. Overview of Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority's (SEPTA) American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Projects

Jeff Kneuppel, SEPTA Assistant General Manager, Engineering, Maintenance and Construction Division, presented to the Board an overview of transit projects underway throughout the SEPTA system that are funded by ARRA.

The basic principles for the program development was to improve infrastructure across all modes and throughout operating territory; improve system reliability; enhance customer service and comfort; and reduce long-term maintenance and operational costs.

Thirty-two projects with 54 contracts are underway or have been completed which include 16 projects related to stations, five projects related to ROW and track; one project repairing/replacing five bridges; four projects related to traction power systems; five projects related to communication and signal systems; and one project for new hybrid buses.

Mr. Kneuppel then presented slides of the projects funded by ARRA which include:

- Girard and Spring Garden Stations Rehabilitation
- Fox Chase Station Building
- Fern Rock Yard Track Renewal
- Croydon Station Improvements
- Darby Transportation Center Improvements
- Langhorne Station Building
- Malvern Station Improvements
- North Wales Station Building Renovation
- Philmont Station Improvements
- Elwyn Station Parking Expansion
- Glenside Station Improvements
- Folcroft, Clifton-Aldan and Morton Station Building Rehabilitation
- Track Bed Stabilization and Construction of Retaining Walls on Elwyn-Wawa
Regional Rail Line
- Stabilize Gwynedd Cut to Increase Operating speeds to 70 MPH
- Replacement of Lansdale Regional Rail Line Bridge 20.25
- Rehabilitation of Lansdale Regional Rail Line Bridge 13.04 – Built in 1930
- Media/Sharon Hill Line
- Overhaul of Norristown Substation
- 40' Heavy-Duty Low-Floor Buses

8. The Economic Value of Open Space

Patty Elkis, DVRPC Associate Director of Comprehensive Planning and Donna Pitz, Executive Director, Green Space Alliance presented to the Board the findings, thus far, of a study on the economic value of open space.

Ms. Elkis explained that the regional goal is to protect 500,000 acres of open space by 2035, yet 25 acres per day is lost to development. Many people believe that undeveloped or conserved land is non-productive and non-revenue producing. They see preserved land as a general loss to the community, and fail to recognize the specific economic benefits open land provides and this misconception is a threat to preservation efforts.

The study shows that protected open space provides substantial economic value to the Southeastern Pennsylvania region and examines wealth generation, tax revenues, and avoided costs.

Ms. Pitz then presented the study's examination of the property value impacts; environmental impacts; recreational impacts; and economic activity for the Pennsylvania the five-county region.

The final report will be available in November, 2010 and presentations by DVRPC staff will be available upon request.

9. Executive Director's Report

a. Summary of Board Retreat

Mr. Seymour called the Board's attention to the *Summary of Meeting Notes* (distributed to the Board) from the September 23, 2010 Board Retreat for their review.

b. Mid-Atlantic Roundtable

Mr. Seymour reported on his participation in the Mid-Atlantic Roundtable; a meeting which gathers MPO's, state and local officials from New Jersey to Virginia to discuss and exchange ideas.

c. PennDOT Planning Partners Meeting

Mr. Seymour reported that he attended the PennDOT Planning Partners Meeting which brings together all the regional planning organizations and MPO's across the state.

d. Economy League Scenario Exercise

Mr. Seymour participated in the Economy League's Scenario Exercise designed to examine the long term future of the region and how are we positioned for change.

e. Central Jersey Forum

Mr. Seymour reported that the forum agreed to move toward a more formal voting structure and create action teams for the development of the Bus Rapid Transit Line and the Land Use Plan.

f. Regional Economic Development Forum

Mr. Seymour reported that the Regional Economic Development Forum at the Philadelphia Navy Yard was a great success. The forum stepped through the Navy Yard development from its industrial past to its future. Mr. Seymour urged those who have not seen the Navy Yard development to visit.

g. Board Policy Analysis Committee Meeting

Mr. Seymour announced that a Board Policy Analysis Committee is scheduled for Thursday, November 18, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in the DVRPC Main Conference Room. An agenda for this meeting will be forwarded to all Board members and alternates in the near future.

h. Grant Funding

Mr. Seymour reported that DVRPC was not selected to receive a grant from HUD for the Regional Planning Sustainable Communities.

Two other grants have been awarded to DVRPC as follows: (1) EPA grant for Regional Energy Circuit Rider; and (2) a grant as part of a Pennsylvania statewide initiative to expand access to and use of broadband service.

10. Committee Reports

a. Planning Coordinating Committee/Regional Transportation Committee

Donald Shanis, DVRPC Deputy Executive Director, reported that the main focus of the PCC/RTC meeting was to discuss the Planning Work Program.

b. Delaware Valley Goods Movement Task Force

Dr. Shanis reported an event sponsored by FHWA will be held at DVRPC on November 4 to discuss what infrastructure projects should be put forth to help the future of freight.

OLD BUSINESS

No new business was stated.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was stated.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:41 a.m.

Attachments:

- (1) Board Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2011

Additional Documents Distributed to the Board:

- (1) Alert, October 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.