

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

BOARD COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of December 6, 2012

Location: Desmond Hotel and Conference Center
One Liberty Boulevard
Malvern, PA 19355

Membership Present

Representative

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
New Jersey Department of Transportation

Joyce Paul
David Kuhn
Thomas Wospil
James Ritzman

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

James Mosca
Brett Tanzman
Ronald Henry
Adam Gattuso

New Jersey Governor's Appointee
Pennsylvania Governor's Appointee

Bryan Kendro
Lynn Bush
Terence Farrell
Ronald Bailey

Pennsylvania Governor's Policy & Planning Office
Bucks County
Chester County

John McBlain
John Pickett

Delaware County

Leslie Richards
Turea Hutson

Montgomery County

Carol Ann Thomas
Andrew Levecchia
Richard Westergaard
Donna Lewis

Burlington County
Camden County
Gloucester County
Mercer County

Matthew Lawson
Whitney White

City of Chester
City of Philadelphia
City of Camden
City of Trenton

Rina Cutler
Edward Williams
Jeffrey Wilkerson

Non-Voting Members

Federal Highway Administration
New Jersey Division

Ernie Blais
Sandra Brillhart
Camille Otto

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
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 for Planning Advocacy

(not represented)
(not represented)
(not represented)
Brigid Hynes-Cherin
Byron Comati
Lou Millan
(not represented)
(not represented)
Barbara Holcomb
John Rink

Lisa Worden
Katherine Meade

DVRPC Co-Counsel

Pennsylvania Co-Counsel
New Jersey Co-Counsel

James Kilcur
Thomas Coleman

DVRPC Staff: Barry J. Seymour, Richard Bickel, John Ward, Patty Elkis, Richard Murphy, Chris Puchalsky, Michael Boyer, Candy Snyder, and Jean McKinney.

Guests

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Montgomery County

Linda Guarini (Dist. 6)
Leo Bagley

Call to Order - Chair's Comments

Chair Terence Farrell called the meeting to order at 1:43 p.m.

Public Comments on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items

No public comments were stated.

1. Minutes of Meeting of October 25, 2012

On a Motion by Mr. Kuhn, seconded by Mr. Levecchia, the minutes of October 25, 2012 were approved as distributed.

2. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP Actions)

Richard Murphy, DVRPC Capital Program Coordinator, Office of Capital Programs, presented the following TIP actions to the Board.

a. PA13-05: FTA Section 5310 Program (MPMS #82860), PennDOT

PennDOT's Bureau of Public Transportation has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2013-2016 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a program back into the TIP, FTA Section 5310 Program (MPMS #82860), by programming \$1,705,600 (\$1,364,480 FTA -5310/\$341,120 Local Match) in FY13 for the purchase of 28 vehicles for four agencies in the DVRPC region.

The Section 5310 program is intended to support the provision of transportation services for elderly persons and persons with disabilities who cannot be reasonably accommodated by conventional public transportation services. The program provides an opportunity for private nonprofit organizations and designated public agencies to apply for State-administered Federal capital assistance to pay 80% of the purchase costs of new wheel chair accessible vehicles and other related transportation equipment. The remaining 20% must be provided by the applicant.

This is a statewide program which is managed by PennDOT's Bureau of Public Transportation, and the funds are additional to the DVRPC region.

The four agencies receiving funds are:

Bucks County

Bucks County Transport, Inc. – funds to be used for the purchase of ten replacement lift-equipped vehicles - \$464,000 FTA 5310/\$116,000 Local;

Chester County

County of Chester – funds to be used for the purchase of six replacement lift-equipped vehicles - \$296,000 FTA 5310/\$74,000 Local.

Delaware County

Community Transit of Delaware County – funds to be used for the purchase of four replacement lift-equipped vehicles - \$169,280 FTA 5310/\$42,320 Local

Montgomery County

Suburban Transit Network, Inc. – funds to be used for the purchase of eight replacement lift-equipped vehicles - \$435,200 FTA 5310/\$108,800 Local.

Financial constraint will be maintained as the project uses Section 5310 funds provided by the Federal Transit Administration and local match provided by applicants.

The TIP's current conformity finding will not be impacted by this amendment as this project is exempt from the regional air quality analysis.

b. PA13-06: Coatesville Train Station (MPMS #87534), PennDOT

PennDOT's Bureau of Public Transportation has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2013-2016 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a project back into the TIP, Coatesville Train Station (MPMS# 87534), by programming a \$20,000,000 project in FY14 (\$4,000,000 Section 5309/\$1,000,000 State 1516) and FY15 (\$6,000,000 Section 5309/\$6,000,000 Section 5307/\$3,000,000 State 1516) for the design and construction of a new train station.

This project will include design and construction of a new ADA accessible train station approximately 300 feet east of the current station with approximately 100 parking spaces. The new station will include improved lighting, level-boarding platforms, overhead canopy, elevators, a passenger connection for crossing the tracks, and track re-alignment. These station improvements, provided by the Statewide Keystone Corridor Line Item, will move the Keystone Corridor towards full ADA accessibility, and provide an improved environment to foster increased ridership.

This project was added to the FY2011 TIP but funds were not put into a grant, and must be added back into the program in order to advance.

Minor renovations will be made to the existing train station structure using funds made available by previously approved projects (see MPMS#'s 71195 and 79210).

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

Favorable recommendation was received from the RTC that the Board approve TIP Action PA13-05 and TIP Action PA13-06.

Favorable comments were received from the public for TIP Action PA13-06.

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

MOTION by Mr. Levecchia, seconded by Commissioner Farrell, that the Board approve the following TIP actions:

- (1) TIP Action PA13-05, PennDOT's Bureau of Public Transportation request to amend the TIP by adding a project to the TIP, FTA Section 5310 Program (MPMS #82860), by programming \$1,705,600 (\$1,364,480 FTA -5310/\$341,120 Local Match) in FY13 for the purchase of 28 vehicles for four agencies in the DVRPC region:
 1. Bucks County Transport, Inc. – funds to be used for the purchase of ten replacement buses - \$580,000 (\$464,000 FTA 5310/\$116,000 Local);
 2. County of Chester – funds to be used for the purchase of six replacement buses - \$370,000 (\$296,000 FTA 5310/\$74,000 Local);
 3. Community Transit of Delaware County – funds to be used for the purchase of four replacement buses - \$211,600 (\$169,280 FTA 5310/\$42,320 Local);
 4. Suburban Transit Network, Inc. – funds to be used for the purchase of eight replacement buses - \$544,000 (\$435,200 FTA 5310/\$108,800 Local).

- (2) TIP Action PA13-06 - PennDOT's Bureau of Public Transportation request to amend the TIP by adding a \$20,000,000 project to the TIP, Coatesville Train Station (MPMS# 87534), by programming (\$4,000,000 Section 5309/\$1,000,000 State 1516) in FY14 and (\$6,000,000 Section 5309/\$6,000,000 Section 5307/\$3,000,000 State 1516) if FY15.

c. PA13-07: Traffic Signal Priority Upgrades on SEPTA Routes (Routes 52, 60, and 66 (MPMS #96248) and Route 6 (MPMS #96249), City of Philadelphia

The City of Philadelphia has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2013-2016 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding two new projects to the TIP, Traffic Signal Priority Upgrades on SEPTA Routes 52, 60 and 66 (MPMS# 96248), by programming \$2,076,250 (\$1,661,000 TCSP/\$415,250 State Match) in FY13 for construction and by adding the Traffic Signal Priority Upgrades on SEPTA Route 6 (MPMS# 96249), by programming \$2,000,000 (\$1,600,000 TCSP/\$400,000 State Match) in FY13 for construction. These are additional funds to the region made available by a federal Transportation, Community, and System Preservation Program (TCSP) award (11PA006) and PennDOT's Bureau of Public Transit State Match, denoted in the Before/After Sheet as 'OTH'.

The goals of these projects are to improve transit vehicle running times and reliability, improve traffic flow along capacity-constrained corridors and provide parallel relief to Interstate 95. Emitters will be installed on transit vehicles to send out a signal to receivers which will be installed on traffic mast arms. The signal will tell the traffic light that transit is approaching and extend the green light (for 10 seconds), allowing transit to "catch the green light" and proceed through an intersection. If transit is unable to make the light, the extended green will, at least, clear the intersection of cars, allowing transit to be first in line when the light changes again.

The Traffic Signal Priority Upgrades on SEPTA Routes 52, 60 and 66 includes the implementation of transit signal priority technology along three SEPTA routes: The Route 52 bus which primarily serves 52nd Street in West Philadelphia; The Route 60 bus which primarily serves Allegheny Avenue in North Philadelphia; and the Route 66 trackless trolley which primarily serves Frankford Avenue in Northeast Philadelphia. The project scope will include purchase and installation of emitters and detectors as well as the installation of fiber interconnect along a portion of Route 52 on 52nd Street from Market

Street to Whitby Avenue.

The Traffic Signal Priority Upgrades on SEPTA Route 6 bus includes the implementation of transit signal priority technology along SEPTA bus route 6 which runs primarily on the Ogontz Avenue corridor. The project scope will include purchase and installation of emitters and detectors and includes the upgrade and interconnect of existing traffic controllers from electromechanical to 170 electronic controllers; new mastarms and ADA ramps as needed at existing and new signalized intersections.

Financial Constraint:

Financial constraint will be maintained as the funds are additional to the region.

Conformity Finding:

The TIP's current conformity finding will not be impacted by this amendment as the projects will be included in subsequent regional emissions analysis as required by the current conformity rule.

Cost and Source of Funds:

\$2,076,250 (\$1,661,000 TCSP/\$415,250 State Match) – TCSP SEPTA Route 52, 60 and 66

\$2,000,000 (\$1,600,000 TCSP/\$400,000 State Match) – TCSP SEPTA Route 6

d. PA13-08: North Delaware Avenue Extension Phase 2 Study (MPMS #TBD), City of Philadelphia

The City of Philadelphia has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2013-2016 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP, North Delaware Avenue Extension Phase 2 Study (MPMS# TBD), by programming \$500,000 (\$400,000 SXF/\$100,000 Local) in FY13. Funding is provided by a \$1,002,341 SAFETEA-LU earmark, PA ID# 667.

This study will develop the next phase of a multi-phased project to construct a "River Road" along the north Delaware Riverfront through Philadelphia amidst planned residential and recreational facilities. The roadway is planned with amenities for bicycles and pedestrians for the North Delaware Avenue Greenway Trail. The road would serve as an alternate route for local truck traffic accessing Interstate 95 from local industrial and commercial businesses. The study will also identify the trail alignment and identify right of way

acquisitions in relation to adjacent land uses including former industrial sites, the Frankford Arsenal and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission boat launch site.

The first phase of this "River Road" is to be let for construction in 2013 under MPMS# 46956, North Delaware Avenue Extension, for the section between Lewis Street and Buckius Street.

This second phase of the new road will extend between Buckius Street and a northerly point that will be identified as part of this study phase.

Financial constraint will be maintained as the funds are additional to the region and the TIP's current conformity finding will not be impacted by this amendment as this project is exempt.

Favorable recommendation was received from the RTC that the Board approves TIP Action PA13-07 and TIP Action PA13-08.

Public comments received were in favor of this TIP Action PA13-07.

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

MOTION by Ms. Cutler, seconded by Commissioner Richards, that the Board approves the following TIP Actions:

- (1) TIP Action PA13-07, The City of Philadelphia's request that DVRPC amend the FY2013-2016 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding two new projects to the TIP, Traffic Signal Priority Upgrades on SEPTA Routes 52, 60 and 66 (MPMS# 96248), by programming \$2,076,250 (\$1,661,000 TCSP/\$415,250 State Match) in FY13 for construction and by adding the Traffic Signal Priority Upgrades on SEPTA Route 6 (MPMS# 96249), by programming \$2,000,000 (\$1,600,000 TCSP/\$400,000 State Match) in FY13 for construction.
- (2) TIP Action PA13-08, The City of Philadelphia's request that DVRPC amend the FY2013-2016 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP, North Delaware Avenue Extension Phase 2 Study (MPMS# TBD), by programming \$500,000 (\$400,000 SXF/\$100,000 Local) in FY13.

e. **NJ12-39: Redistribution of Unobligated Earmark Balances, Various DB#'s, Various Counties in New Jersey**

NJDOT has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2012 – 2015 TIP for New Jersey by redistributing unobligated balances of FY2003 – 2006 Appropriation Act Earmarks in the amount of \$2,968,786 to the Route 295/42/I-76, Direct Connection, Contract 1 project (DB# 355B) for FY13 Construction (CON); and reduce FY13 Interstate Maintenance funds by \$2,969,000 and place in DVRPC region's Fiscal Constraint Bank. In DVRPC's New Jersey region, there has been a total of \$2,968,786 in earmark funds that have been targeted for redistribution. NJDOT has proposed to use \$2,968,786 funds for the Route 295/42/I-76, Direct Connection, Contract 1 project (DB# 355B), as this project can be obligated quickly and in time to meet the federal deadline so that funds are not lost to the region.

On August 17, 2012, U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood made over \$470 million in unspent earmark highway funds from FY2003 to FY2006 immediately available to states departments of transportation for eligible surface transportation projects (highway, transit, passenger rail, or port). To avoid losing the ability to use the targeted earmarks in the region, states must identify the projects they plan to use the funds for and obligate them by December 31, 2012. Within the Delaware Valley Region, New Jersey has \$2,968,786 available for redistribution. See the attached chart for a detailed list of the three New Jersey earmarks that were appropriated, their unobligated balances, and the project NJDOT has proposed to redistribute the funds to.

This redistribution does not eliminate any active projects.

Financial constraint will be maintained as the FY2003 – 2006 Appropriation Act Earmarks are additional to the region and by making adjustments to other existing TIP projects whose schedules or costs have changed.

There will be no impact on the conformity determination.

Favorable recommendation was received from the RTC that the Board approve TIP Action NJ12-39.

Public Comments were in favor of TIP Action NJ12-39.

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

MOTION by Mr. Kuhn , seconded by Mr. Levecchia, that the Board approve the redistribution of \$2,968,786 unobligated balances of FY2003 – 2006 Appropriation Act Earmarks to the Route 295/42/I-76, Direct Connection, Contract 1 (DB# 355B), for FY13 Construction; and reduce FY13 Interstate Maintenance funds by \$2,969,000 and place in DVRPC region's Fiscal Constraint Bank.

3. Approval to Release the DVRPC Draft Fiscal Year 2014 Planning Work Program for Review and Comment

Barry Seymour, DVRPC Executive Director explained to the Board that authorization is being sought to distribute for review and comment the Draft Fiscal Year 2014 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 will be due on the Draft Work Program by January 15, 2013 and they will be presented at the regular January Board Meeting for adoption.

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

MOTION by Ms. Cutler, seconded by Mr. Kuhn, that the Board authorize distribution of the DVRPC Draft Fiscal Year 2014 Planning Work Program for review and comment.

4. One Minute Reports

Lou Millan, New Jersey Transit, provided a brief overview of the impacts and recovery efforts surrounding Hurricane Sandy in New Jersey.

Byron Comati, SEPTA, also commented on the impacts of the storm and the need for proactive planning.

Commissioner McBlain, Delaware County, commented that there are some new economic opportunities taking place at the former PECO facility in Eddystone and

the former Sunoco Refinery in Marcus Hook. In both cases, the opportunities include re-use of these facilities in the energy and transportation sectors and the County will benefit from new jobs associated with these investments.

Donna Lewis, Mercer County, reported that Frontier Airlines is now also operating from the Mercer County Airport.

5. Executive Director's Report

a. Staff Transitions

Mr. Seymour reported that Jean L. McKinney, Board Recording Secretary, is retiring and introduced Renee Wise as her replacement.

b. Impacts of Hurricane Sandy

At the most recent Transportation Operations Task Force Meeting at DVRPC discussions were held on the need for communications, preparedness, and planning with impacts of weather in mind.

c. Transportation Alternatives Program

The Transportation Enhancements and Home Town Streets/Safe Routes to School programs will now be known as the Transportation Alternatives Program. The process for selecting projects will be determined in the near future, but will include significant MPO involvement.

d. Pennsylvania Right-to-Know Challenge

The Commonwealth Court found DVRPC is not subject to the Right-to-Know Law, however, it has been appealed to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. There is no decision yet if the Supreme Court will choose to review the case.

e. Public Participation Task Force

Mr. Seymour introduced Jim Hopkins, Co-Chair of the Public Participation Task Force. The Task Force will meet bi-monthly.

f. Ride ECO

Mr. Seymour reported that after January 1, 2013, DVRPC will no longer be licensing the TransitChek trademark and will be using the brand Easy

Commute Options (RideECO www.RideECO.org)) to offer and promote its commuter benefit program and related products and services.

6. Committee Reports

The following committee highlights were distributed to the Board for their review: (1) Regional Technical Committee; and (2) Regional Community and Economic Development Forum.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was stated.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was stated.

There being no further business, the meetings was adjourned at 2:11 p.m.

Additional Items distributed to the Board:

Alert, December 2012

DVRPC fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. DVRPC public meetings are held in ADA and transit-accessible facilities. Auxiliary services can be provided to individuals who submit a request at least seven days prior to a meeting. For more information please visit the DVRPC website (www.dvrpc.org) or call (215) 238-2871.