

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

BOARD COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of June 27, 2013

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

Membership Present

Representative

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
New Jersey Department of Transportation

Joyce Paul
James Simpson
David Kuhn

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
New Jersey Governor's Appointee

James Mosca
Regina Egea
Amy Herbold

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

Lisa Worden
Karen Stokes
Diane Ellis-Marseglia
Lynn Bush

Chester County

Terence Farrell

Delaware County

Ronald Bailey

Montgomery County

John McBlain

Burlington County

Thomas Shaffer

Camden County

Leslie Richards

Gloucester County

Carol Ann Thomas

Mercer County

Andrew Levecchia

City of Chester

Richard Westergaard

City of Philadelphia

Donna Lewis

City of Camden

Jacqueline Parker

City of Trenton

Andrew Stober

Edward Williams

(not represented)

Non-Voting Members

Federal Highway Administration

New Jersey Division

(not represented)

Pennsylvania Division

(not represented)

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development,

Region III	(not represented)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region II	(not represented)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III	(not represented)
Federal Transit Administration, Region III	Tony Cho
Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority	(not represented)
New Jersey Transit Corporation	Lou Millan
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	Cosmo Servidio
Delaware River Port Authority	(not represented)
Port Authority Transit Corporation	John Rink
New Jersey Office of Planning Advocacy	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development	(not represented)

DVRPC Co-Counsel

Pennsylvania Co-Counsel	Frederick D. Strober
New Jersey Co-Counsel	Thomas Coleman

DVRPC Staff: Barry J. Seymour, Patty Elkis, Candy Snyder, Richard Murphy, Chris Puchalsky, Elizabeth Schoonmaker, Thomas McGovern, Jane Meconi, Karin Morris, Robert Graff, John Griffies, Michael Boyer, Brett Fusco, and Renee Wise.

Guests

Cross County Connection TMA	William Ragozine
Montgomery County Planning Commission	Jody Holton
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (Dist. 6)	Linda Guarini
Clean Air Council	Dennis Winters
Resident, Mt. Laurel	Lita Bellocchio
Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc.	Susan Herman
Delaware County Planning Commission	Gus Frederick
	Steve Hackett
	Beverly Schaefer
	Michael Seay

Call to Order - Chair's Comments

Chair Terence Farrell called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Executive Director Barry Seymour welcomed Commissioner James Simpson from the New Jersey Department of Transportation, Regina Egea from the New Jersey Governor's Authorities Unit, Karen Stokes from the Pennsylvania Governor's Policy and Planning

Office, and noted that Lisa Worden was sitting in as a voting member for Ronald Henry as the Pennsylvania Governor's Appointee.

Public Comments on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items

Dennis Winters of the Clean Air Council submitted comments focusing on his perception that public participation at DVRPC had declined. He commented on the disbanding of the Regional Citizens Committee and the inadequacy of its replacement, the Public Participation Task Force. Additional public comments were submitted about insufficient public participation in DVRPC's planning activities from Sue Herman of Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc. See attached public comments for more detail. Public comments were submitted about noise problems at and around her residence by Lita Bellocchio, a resident of Mount Laurel, N.J. Ms. Bellocchio commented about excessive noise due to the New Jersey Turnpike, and aircraft flight patterns, which caused airplane noise over her home. She asked that funding go to noise abatement activities.

1. Minutes of Meeting of May 23, 2013

On a motion by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Mosca, the minutes of May 23, 2013 were approved as distributed.

2. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP Actions)

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

2a. PA13-38: Delaware County Act 13 Local Bridges, (Various MPMS#s), Delaware County

Delaware County has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2013 - 2016 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding four new local bridge projects to the TIP for design and construction in FY13 in the amount of \$420,000 using the 2012 allocation of Act 13 funds. These are additional funds to the region.

The four bridges that have been requested are:

1. 2nd Avenue Bridge over Stony Creek (MPMS# 97864) in Ridley Township in the amount of \$100,000 (\$10,000 final design and \$90,000 construction). The scope includes the placement of rock protection at the abutments, the deck will be scarified and have a latex modified concrete overlay installed and safety features will be upgraded.

2. Clyde Road Bridge over Ithan Creek (MPMS# 97866) in Radnor Township in the amount of \$100,000 (\$10,000 final design and \$90,000 construction). The scope includes the placement of rock protection at the abutments, the deck will be scarified and have a latex modified concrete overlay installed, and safety features will be repaired.

3. Forge Road over Chester Creek (MPMS# 97872) in Thornbury and Middletown Townships in the amount of \$160,000 (\$15,000 final design and \$145,000 construction). The scope includes the placement of rock protection at the west abutment, the bituminous wearing surface will be removed, the deck will be scarified and have a latex modified concrete overlay installed, and safety features will be upgraded.

4. Glenolden Avenue Bridge over Muckinipattis Creek (MPMS# 97873) in Glenolden Borough in the amount of \$60,000 (\$7,500 final design and \$52,500 construction). The scope includes the placement of rock protection at the abutments, repairs will be made to the stone masonry substructure and the safety features will be upgraded.

Performing repairs on these structures will remove these bridges from deficient status.

Act 13 of 2012, is a new Pennsylvania State law, which establishes a Marcellus Legacy Fund that allocates a portion of the Marcellus Shale Impact Fee to the Highway Bridge Improvement Restricted Account in the Motor License Fund. These funds are distributed to counties (proportionately based on population) and are to be used to fund the replacement or repair of locally owned (county or municipal), at-risk, deteriorated bridges. In collaboration with the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP), the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) has defined an at-risk deteriorated bridge to be one posted with weight restrictions that is structurally deficient including those that are posted with weight restrictions.

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

Favorable recommendation was received from the Regional Technical Committee.

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

MOTION by Mr. McBlain, seconded by Ms. Richards, that the Board approve the following TIP action:

PA13-38: Delaware County's request that DVRPC amend the FY2013-2016 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding four new local bridge projects to the TIP for design and construction in FY13 in the amount of \$420,000 using the 2012 allocation of Act 13 funds.

1. 2nd Avenue Bridge over Stony Creek (MPMS# 97864) in the amount of \$100,000 (\$10,000 final design and \$90,000 construction);
2. Clyde Road Bridge over Ithan Creek (MPMS# 97866) in the amount of \$100,000 (\$10,000 final design and \$90,000 construction);
3. Forge Road over Chester Creek (MPMS# 97872) in the amount of \$160,000 (\$15,000 final design and \$145,000 construction);
4. Glenolden Avenue Bridge over Muckinipattis Creek (MPMS# 97873) in the amount of \$60,000 (\$7,500 final design and \$52,500 construction).

2b. PA13-39: Wall and Pavement Repair, SR 0032 - LG1 (River Road), (MPMS# 87744), Bucks County

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2013 - 2016 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new \$3,720,000 project to the TIP, and program as follows: FY13 utility phase \$20,000 STU, FY13 construction phase \$500,000 STU, and FY14 construction phase \$3,200,000 STU.

This project, located in Solebury Township, involves the construction of a retaining wall, widening and repair of the bituminous roadway, drainage improvements to help prevent future deterioration of the new wall and roadway, and construction of a guide rail on State Route 0032-LG1(River Road). The location is approximately 200 feet north of Paxon Road to approximately 1,100 feet south of Paxon Road.

This condition has been observed, and was confirmed by the District Bridge Engineer, Plans, Geotechnical, and Maintenance Unit staff, over the past two years and has reached a stage where action to address the situation is prudent. District 6-0 advises that this project be expedited due to the unpredictable and potentially serious effects of this condition if left unaddressed.

This highway restoration project is scheduled for a February 13, 2014 letting. If this project is not implemented, there is a strong probability that this wall will fail to such an extent as to close the roadway entirely and possibly cause injury to the traveling public.

Financial constraint will be maintained by making adjustments to other existing TIP projects whose schedules or costs have changed. The fiscal constraint chart provided by PennDOT shows all of the adjustments taking place, including several that are being handled by staff as Administrative Actions in accordance with the TIP Memorandum of Understanding. All projects listed contribute to fiscal constraint.

Favorable recommendation was received from the Regional Technical Committee.

2c. PA13-40: 30th Street Station Bridges, (MPMS# 64844), City of Philadelphia

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2013 - 2016 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a previously obligated construction phase back into the TIP by increasing the 30th Street Station Bridges project by \$10,200,000 (FY13 construction phase \$7,154,000 BOO/\$1,789,000 State 185, FY14 \$1,006,000 BOO/\$251,000 State 185). The overall estimated construction cost of this project, is \$63,850,000, not including the requested action.

This project involves the rehabilitation of complex structures around 30th Street Station and over Amtrak's Northeast Corridor rail lines in the City of Philadelphia. There are six structures within the project limits. The work area includes Market Street and Little Market Street (S.R. 3010 and S.R. 3026), Arch Street (S.R. 3030), and Chestnut (S.R. 0003) between 30th Street and Schuylkill Avenue West. It also includes 30th Street Station (S.R. 3026) between Arch Street and Market Street. The roadways around the station are built on a structure to accommodate the railroad tracks (AMTRAK, SEPTA) and highway (I-76, Schuylkill Expressway) that pass underneath. Also, no changes to the horizontal or vertical geometry or clearances are anticipated.

This cost increase is the result of additional required repairs that were discovered during construction and not apparent upon initial inspection. During construction, the contractor was granted long-term access to the area and prior to any steel repairs, the contractor would blast clean the structural steel. This revealed the need for more repairs to structural members. To account for this, PennDOT and the designers agreed to increase the amount of steel in the identified repairs by 15 percent as a contingency. The contract special provisions also allowed steel with up to 1/8 inch of section loss to remain without a repair. Through field findings and Bridge Inspection reports, the District identified a considerable amount of necessary column repairs. Some of the column repairs required jacking and girder replacement.

Financial constraint will be maintained by making adjustments to other existing TIP projects whose schedules or costs have changed. The fiscal constraint chart provided by PennDOT shows all of the adjustments taking place, including several that are being handled by staff as Administrative Actions in accordance with the TIP Memorandum of Understanding. All projects listed contribute to fiscal constraint.

Favorable recommendation was received from the Regional Technical Committee.

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

MOTION by Ms. Marseglia, seconded by Mr. Mosca, that the Board approve the following TIP actions:

PA13-39: Delaware County's request that DVRPC amend the FY2013-2016 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new \$3,720,000 project to the TIP, and program as follows: FY13 utility phase \$20,000 STU, FY13 construction phase \$500,000 STU, and FY14 construction phase \$3,200,000 STU.

PA13-40: PennDOT's request that DVRPC amend the FY2013-2016 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a previously obligated construction phase back into the TIP by increasing the 30th Street Station Bridges project by \$10,200,000 (FY13 construction phase \$7,154,000 BOO/\$1,789,000 State 185, FY14 \$1,006,000 BOO/\$251,000 State 185).

2d. NJ12-68: South Jersey Bus Rapid Transit (SJ BRT)/Avandale Park and Ride (Bus Livability) (DB# T630), NJ TRANSIT

This item was **withdrawn** from the agenda at the request of New Jersey Transit.

2e. NJ12-70: Preventive Maintenance - Bus (DB# T135), NJ TRANSIT

NJ TRANSIT has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2012–2015 TIP for New Jersey by increasing funding for Preventive Maintenance – Bus (DB# T135), by \$10,343,000 from \$18,442,000 to \$28,785,000 Section 5307 funds for FY13 Capital Acquisition (CAP).

This action is associated with increases in NJ TRANSIT's overall federal formula funding levels by approximately \$22,000,000 per year for the DVRPC region, as a result of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) programs and changes that were authorized by Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21).

Funding will provide for preventive maintenance costs and overhaul of buses under federal funding guidelines.

Financial constraint will be maintained as this amendment uses increased additional funds to the region.

Favorable recommendation was received from the Regional Technical Committee.

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

MOTION by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mr. Levecchia, that the Board approve the following TIP action:

NJ12-70: NJ TRANSIT's request to amend the FY2012–2015 TIP for New Jersey by increasing funding for Preventive Maintenance – Bus (DB# T135), by \$10,343,000 from \$18,442,000 to \$28,785,000 Section 5307 funds for FY13 Capital Acquisition (CAP).

2f. NJ12-71: Route 70, Route 38 to Cropwell Road (DB# 11338), Camden and Burlington Counties

NJDOT has requested that DVRPC modify the FY2012–2015 TIP for New Jersey by adding a \$2,800,000 NHPP funded Preliminary Engineering (PE) phase in FY13 and a \$3,000,000 NHPP funded Final Design (DES) phase in FY14 to Route 70, Route 38 to Cropwell Road (DB# 11338). The project requires both Preliminary Engineering and Final Design phases to move forward in the capital project delivery process.

Originally programmed only as a resurfacing project, the project scope has expanded to include milling, resurfacing, reconstructing, and rehabilitating the mainline and shoulder pavement, including ramps and cross roads, along eastbound and westbound Route 70 from Route 38 to Cropwell Road. In addition, an existing culvert at Cropwell's Brook in Cherry Hill Township, Camden County will be replaced to accommodate a 25-year storm. The project will traverse through Pennsauken and Cherry Hill Townships in Camden County and Evesham Township in Burlington County.

Financial constraint will be maintained by making adjustments to other existing TIP projects whose schedules or costs have changed. The fiscal constraint chart provided by NJDOT shows all of the adjustments taking place, including several that are being handled by staff as Administrative Actions in accordance with the TIP Memorandum of Understanding. All projects listed contribute to fiscal constraint.

Favorable recommendation was received from the Regional Technical Committee.

A public comment was received from John Boyle of the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia about how dangerous Route 70 is for bicyclists and pedestrians. He asked that final design for this project include improvements to make the roadway safer. A response from NJDOT followed, that detailed the steps that it would take to ensure safety for bicyclists and pedestrians.

MOTION by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mr. Levecchia, that the Board approve the following TIP action:

NJ12-71: That the Board approve TIP Action NJ12-71, NJDOT's request to amend the FY2012–2015 TIP for New Jersey by adding a \$2,800,000 NHPP funded Preliminary

Engineering (PE) phase in FY13 and a \$3,000,000 NHPP funded Final Design (DES) phase in FY14 to Route 70, Route 38 to Cropwell Road (DB# 11338).

3. Federal Functional Classification Review and Update

Matt Gates, DVRPC Manager, Office of Modeling & Analysis, explained to the Board that recently, DVRPC adopted new Adjusted Urbanized Area boundaries based on the 2010 Census. Changes to the Urbanized Area require updates to the Federal Functional Classification of roadways in the affected areas. This update provides a good opportunity for DOTs and County Planning Commissions to re-assess the functional classification of all roadways according to the character of service they are intended to provide and changes to the roadway system since 2000. Staff presented the updates and asked the Board for its approval.

Favorable recommendation was received from the Regional Technical Committee.

MOTION by Ms. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Stober, that the Board approve the updated Federal Functional Classification for roadways in the DVRPC region.

4. FFY 2012 (Round 14) New Jersey Job Access and Reverse Commute and New Freedom Grant Programs – Project Recommendations and TIP Commitment

Greg Krykewycz, Manager, Office of Transit, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Planning, explained to the Board that Under SAFETEA-LU regulations, the Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom (NF) grant programs are components of a Coordinated Human Services Transportation Planning (CHSTP) process. New Jersey Transit (NJ Transit) is the state-wide designated recipient for the JARC and NF programs in New Jersey. Local nonprofit agencies, municipalities, as well as other transportation providers, are eligible sub-recipients. NJ Transit will work with all potential sub-recipients to develop full applications to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

FTA regulations require metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) to conduct a “fair and equitable” selection process consistent with the adopted regional Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan. This includes plan updates, outreach, ranking and recommendation of project applicants, and adding projects to the regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), pending grant approvals. Rating criteria are outlined in NJ Transit’s statewide application, with an emphasis on established local funding priorities identified in county CHSTP documents. Project applications were evaluated by the NJ CHSTP Selection Committee. Projects recommended for funding are listed on the attached memo. NJ Transit will work directly with recommended applicants to determine final funding levels. The JARC grant program is intended to help fund transportation services and supportive activities that facilitate access to jobs for welfare recipients and lower income persons, as well as reverse commute trips for the

general population. The FFY12 JARC program provides \$501,312 in FTA funds for the Philadelphia and Trenton areas in DVRPC's New Jersey counties. The New Freedom grant program is intended to provide additional tools for disabled individuals seeking integration into the workforce and society. This is often accomplished through infrastructure upgrades beyond ADA requirements. The FFY12 New Freedom program provides \$413,285 in FTA funds for the Philadelphia and Trenton areas in DVRPC's New Jersey counties. FTA grant recipients are required to provide their own matching funds.

Following project solicitation in February 2013, DVRPC received five JARC applications and seven New Freedom applications. Staff reviewed the materials and forwarded the applications to the New Jersey selection committee for their review. The selection committee met on April 17, 2013 and recommends four JARC applications and six New Freedom applications to be forwarded to NJ Transit, which will make final determination on actual funding levels based on availability and need.

Additional project-specific TIP actions may be made later if required.

Favorable recommendation was received from the Regional Technical Committee.

Executive Director, Barry Seymour, asked about the nature of the current TIP action. Mr. Krykewycz responded that the current action is to bring the amounts programmed in the TIP into alignment with updated FTA formula allocations. Additional project-specific TIP modifications may be pursued if required.

MOTION by Ms. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Levecchia that the Board approve:

1. The project recommendations for JARC and New Freedom funding applications;
2. Modification of the FY2012 TIP for New Jersey (TIP Action: NJ12-74) in FFY13 to adjust funding to actual SAFETEA-LU levels for the JARC (DB# T199) and New Freedom (DB# T552) programs. At the appropriate time, these amounts will be specified by NJ Transit to reflect actual project funding levels depending on available matching funds and budget needs.

5. DVRPC Annual Self-Certification of the Regional Transportation Planning Process

Richard Bickel, DVRPC Director of Planning, explained to the Board that federal regulations for metropolitan planning (23 CFR 450 and 49 CFR 613) require the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to annually certify to the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration that its transportation planning process addresses the major issues facing the area and is being conducted in accordance with all applicable requirements.

The regulation lists specific requirements which must be addressed. DVRPC's compliance with these requirements is outlined below:

1. Improvements to the transportation system in the region have been the result of continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive planning process carried out by state and local officials.
2. The transportation planning process, including the adoption of the TIP and Long Range Plan, is consistent with the Clean Air Act and is in conformance with the applicable State Implementation Plans.
3. Private citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of transportation agency employees, other affected employee representatives, private providers of transportation, and other interested parties were provided with a reasonable opportunity to comment on the TIP, Long Range Plan, and planning process.
4. The TIP includes a financial plan that demonstrates how the TIP can be implemented, indicates resources from both public and private sources that are reasonably expected to be available, and recommends innovative financing techniques.
5. DVRPC's planning process is administered in accordance with FTA Circular 4702.1, Title VI, and DVRPC employment practices comply with FTA Circular 4704, Equal Employment Opportunity Guidelines for Grant Recipients.
6. DVRPC's programs are conducted consistent with Title 49 CFR Part 23 as implemented by FTA Circular 4716.1A regarding disadvantaged business enterprise programs.
7. The Region's public transit operators have certified that they are making special efforts to provide transportation services which can be utilized by elderly and handicapped persons.
8. Congestion Management System requirements for non-attainment Transportation Management Areas have been met.
9. Environmental justice for low income and minority populations is being addressed.
10. The provision of 49 CFR part 20 regarding restrictions on influencing certain activities has been met.

Favorable recommendation was received from the Regional Technical Committee.

MOTION by Mr. Levecchia, seconded by Mr. McBlain, that the Board adopt:

Resolution No. B-FY13-002 certifying that the DVRPC Regional Transportation Planning Process is in conformance with federal regulations implementing MAP-21, the Clean Air Act Amendments, and other federal legislation.

6. Election of Fiscal Year 2014 Board Officers

Elections took place for the Fiscal Year 2014 DVRPC Board Officers. A recommended slate of officers was proposed by the Nominating Committee. No nominations were offered from the floor.

On a **motion** by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Levecchia, the Board unanimously approved the closing of nominations.

On a **motion** by Mr. McBlain, seconded by Mr. Levecchia, the Board unanimously approved the Fiscal Year 2014 DVRPC Board Officers:

Commissioner James Simpson was elected Chair (Alternate, David Kuhn, New Jersey Department of Transportation)
Commissioner Leslie Richards was elected Vice Chair (Montgomery County Commissioner)
Freeholder Louis Cappelli, Jr. was elected Secretary (Camden County)
Ronald Henry was elected Treasurer (Pennsylvania Governor's Appointee)

DISCUSSION ITEM

7. One Minute Reports

James Mosca, PennDOT, reported on the Transportation Bill and indicated that there has been some movement on House/Senate side. He expressed optimism that there would be action taken to move the bill forward, before the end of the week.

Leslie Richards, Montgomery County Commissioner, reported that the CMAQ funding, approved by DVRPC, was allocated to a King of Prussia connector with buses from the Norristown Transportation Center and from Wayne. This is especially useful since the Norristown viaduct is going to be closed soon and being able to bus people from the Norristown transportation center will be very helpful. Also, there will be a scoping meeting for the King of Prussia extension in two weeks.

Diane Ellis-Marseglia, Bucks County, thanked DVRPC's Mike Boyer for coming to Bucks County and presenting the Long-Range Plan.

Thomas Shaffer, Delaware County, introduced the Delaware County Planning Commission's interns.

Andrew Stober, City of Philadelphia, reported that the City Council approved the Use and Lease agreement for the Philadelphia International Airport, which allows several contracts to move forward. Included are plans to extend the airport's longest runway.

Jacqueline Parker, City of Chester, reported that the city hosted the Urban Waterway Partnership Federal Agency Meeting last week. This was a good meeting and about 40 people representing different agencies attended.

PRESENTATIONS

8. 2010 GHG emissions inventory

Robert Graff, DVRPC Manager, Office of Energy and Climate Change Initiatives, presented to the Board on the recently completed Regional Energy Use and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory which provides an accounting of energy use and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for the nine-county DVRPC region for 2010. This inventory follows up on the 2005 inventory released in 2009, and was carried out in close consultation with the US EPA to assure the protocol used conforms where possible to the agency's current thinking on MPO-level inventories. DVRPC also consulted with the counties and coordinated with the City of Philadelphia, which produces a GHG inventory of its own. The results show a decrease in regional GHG emissions of just under seven percent between 2005 and 2010.

9. Shared Services Municipal Implementation Tool

Emily Costello, DVRPC Senior Planner, Office of Smart Growth, reported to the Board that in many cases, sharing services allows municipalities to decrease both the cost and the complexity of the services they provide to their constituents while providing a higher level of service overall. In the DVRPC region, there are many examples of service sharing; it has been embraced by members of both political parties as a fiscally responsible method of service delivery.

Ronald Bailey, Chester County, raised some concerns that two of Chester County's multi-municipal plans were not included in the report. Additionally, the report does not mention that the State Planning Board issued a report to the general assembly and the Governor on municipal mergers and shared services in 2009 that resulted in changes to the planning code.

Emily Costello responded that DVRPC staff did look extensively at that report and decided not to include it in its report and Municipal Implementation Tool because they wanted to focus solely on shared services and not mergers and consolidations. Ms. Costello commented that DVRPC staff would look into these areas and determine if the report needs to be amended.

9. Executive Director's Report

a. FY2014 Planning Work Program

Mr. Seymour called the Board's attention to DVRPC's FY2014 Planning Work Program, which was distributed at the meeting. He encouraged everyone to take their copies home for review.

b. Pennsylvania Transportation Funding

Mr. Seymour reported that there is a lot of activity going on with Pennsylvania's Transportation Funding bill and that initially it was tied to liquor privatization and then to prevailing wage. He noted that there was supposed to be some action taking place on the bill that day (June 27, 2013).

c. Long-Range Plan Public Meetings

Mr. Seymour reported that the Long-Range Plan public meetings are taking place. A public meeting was held on June 12 at the Cherry Hill Public Library in New Jersey. A public meeting is scheduled at DVRPC today (June 27) from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Today's meeting was changed from an earlier scheduled date at the request of Susan Herman. The public comment period runs from June 7 until July 8. Adoption of the Plan will take place on July 25, with a lunchtime event at Franklin Square Park.

d. NJ TIP Public Meetings

Mr. Seymour reported that the NJ TIP Public Meetings are taking place. A NJ TIP Public Meeting took place on June 12 at the Cherry Hill Public Library in New Jersey. The public comment period for the NJ TIP goes from May 17 to June 18.

e. World Class Philadelphia Infrastructure Forum

Mr. Seymour reported that the World Class Philadelphia Infrastructure Forum took place on June 20 with former Mayor and Governor Ed Rendell. Mr. Seymour participated in the event in which attendees provided high-level recommendations on infrastructure, including water and sewer, parks and open space, and airports.

f. Regional Trail Program

Mr. Seymour reported that the Regional Trail program is moving along well. There are 29 projects funded for \$6 million. DVRPC is currently reviewing the next round of submittals (28 projects seeking \$10 million; \$4 million available). To date five construction projects have been completed, three are near complete and the remaining four will be completed next year. Planning or design projects are all underway.

g. National Association of Regional Councils

Mr. Seymour noted that the National Association of Regional Council's Conference concluded earlier in the week. The conference went very well and Mr. Seymour thanked DVRPC's Candy Snyder for her assistance with the event.

10. Committee Reports

The following committee reports were distributed to the Board for review:

- (1) Regional Technical Committee; (2) Information Resources Exchange Group;
- (3) Regional Safety Task Force; (4) Transportation Operations Task Force;
- (5) Regional Aviation Committee; (6) 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 meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m. on a **MOTION** by Mr. Kuhn, seconded by Mr. Westergaard.

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.

I certify that this is a true and correct copy.

Renee Wise, Recording Secretary

Susan Herman

Susan Herman
1977 Boxwood Drive
Newtown, PA 18940

DVRPC Board Members
C/O Terence Farrell, Chair
190 N. Independence Mall West, 8th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106

June 27, 2013

SUBJECT: Request that DVRPC Board members:

- ...reject RESOLUTION (No. B-FY13-002):
DVRPC SELF CERTIFICATION OF THE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS, and
- ...pursue a resolution that encourages meaningful public participation from the region's citizens by including them in the action item decision-making process that takes place at monthly Regional Technical Committee (RTC) and DVRPC Board meetings.

Dear DVRPC Board Members,

I am Susan Herman, a Bucks County resident. My public comment at this morning's DVRPC Board meeting pertains to agenda item #5: Annual Self-Certification of the Regional Transportation Planning Process.

Meaningful public participation is an important part of the Federal standards that are to be met by the DVRPC. Unfortunately, meaningful public participation is at an all time low at the DVRPC. **I respectfully ask that you reject the RESOLUTION for DVRPC SELF CERTIFICATION OF THE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS and pursue a resolution that encourages meaningful public participation from the region's citizens by including them in the action item decision-making process that takes place at monthly RTC and DVRPC Board meetings.**

The RESOLUTION you are considering was distributed at the 6/11/13 RTC meeting (see Attachment I). The third to the last bullet states,

"WHEREAS, DVRPC recognizes the federal standards that are in place, but strives to exceed those standards, whenever possible, to ensure the health of the region's citizens and the sustainability of the Delaware Valley."

With the current unacceptable state of public participation, it is questionable whether the DVRPC is minimally meeting Federal standards. The DVRPC is clearly not exceeding them. Because of this, I believe that the "health of the region's citizens" and the "sustainability of the Delaware Valley" are at risk. As you know, I was shocked to eventually learn that the Public Participation Task Force (that replaced the Regional Citizens Committee) does not participate AT ALL in the decision-making process for action items voted upon at RTC and DVRPC Board meetings. **This should change. RTC and DVRPC Board members no longer benefit from hearing the well-informed, objective, and thoughtful collective**

1/15

voice of the region's citizens. This voice sometimes gave another perspective for consideration when voting on action items.

The previous Regional Citizens Committee, however imperfect, provided a voice that led to healthy discourse on the RTC and DVRPC Board. This kind of input is important in a system where there is pressure for RTC and DVRPC Board members to rubber-stamp action items which often reflect the wishes of DVRPC staff exclusively. If we truly want to ensure the future "health of the region's citizens" and the "sustainability of the Delaware Valley", a regional citizens' role must be created that is equal in quality to the previous Regional Citizens Committee role. This regional citizens' role must be cultivated and encouraged by a new resolution that I am asking you to make.

What evidence is there that meaningful and informed public input has all but vanished at monthly RTC and DVRPC Board meetings?

- (a) As currently formed, the Public Participation Task Force (PPTF) is divorced from the monthly business voted upon at RTC and DVRPC Board meetings.**

Monthly RTC action items:

The PPTF members who sit on the RTC are not representing a consensus opinion of the PPTF. In fact, the PPTF - which meets on a bi-monthly basis - does not review or weigh in on any RTC or DVRPC Board action items.

Page 4 of Attachment II is a 1/8/13 letter from Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc. to Barry Seymour, RTC Members, and DVRPC Board Members **RE: Critical Part of April Public Participation Plan Is Not Workable.** The letter states, "We are concerned that a critically important part of the recently implemented Public Participation Plan (Plan) is not workable. With the current Plan, it is NOT possible for the Public Participation Task Force (PPTF) members who sit on the RTC to cast their votes by taking a 'regional perspective', as they have been asked to do. The 9/11/12 RTC Meeting Highlights state, 'John Ward began by welcoming one of the new Public Participation Task Force (PPTF) members, Harry Fox. Mr. Fox is from Burlington County, and is a civil engineer who has been involved in numerous Boards and Commissions in Burlington County and Gloucester Counties, including chairing the Delran, NJ Zoning Board. Mr. Ward explained that the PPTF members represent a county or community but have been asked, in their role at the RTC, to take a regional perspective in their thoughts and their votes. He anticipates that they will eventually be voting members. Because the PPTF will not be taking action on RTC or Board items, their views will be as citizens of the region, and not representing a consensus of the PPTF. They will provide their feedback regarding the PCC/RTC meetings to the PPTF.'"

Monthly DVRPC Board action items:

NO PPTF members sit on the DVRPC Board. This is unconscionable.

2/15

(b) Attendance continues to decline at PPTF meetings.

The 5/16/13 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DVRPC PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TASK FORCE 2013 (see page 2 of Attachment III) state, "In light of declining attendance at PPTF meetings, Candace Snyder asked members to consider the structure of meetings, their frequency, and potential agenda items that could be incorporated in the future, such as guest speakers and a Work Program Project Development Workshop."

(c) PPTF members are appointed by county governments and DVRPC staff and, therefore, represent those who appointed them, rather than representing the region's citizens.

(d) Few members of the public are using the DVRPC's "Public Comments to Board Actions" web commenting feature referenced in Barry Seymour's 1/16/13 letter to Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc. (see page 3 of Attachment II).

(e) Few members of the public attend RTC and DVRPC Board meetings. (Consideration should be given to telecasting these meetings and providing the public with the opportunity to make public comment from their homes, places of business, etc.)

I again ask you to reject the current resolution and consider a new resolution that will encourage greater meaningful public participation from the region's citizens in the action item decision-making process that takes place at monthly RTC and DVRPC Board meetings. I respectfully request that this letter be referenced and included in its entirety in the minutes of today's meeting.

Sincerely,

Susan Herman

CC: Peter Rogoff; Administrator, Federal Transit Administration
Therese McMillan; Deputy Administrator, Federal Transit Administration
Matt Welbes; Executive Director, Federal Transit Administration
Victor Mendez; Administrator, Federal Highway Administration
Greg Nadeau; Deputy Administrator, Federal Highway Administration
Jeffrey Paniati; Executive Director, Federal Highway Administration
Barry Seymour; Executive Director, DVRPC
Candace Snyder; Director, Office of DVRPC Public Affairs & Communications
Brigid Hynes-Cherin; Regional Administrator, Federal Transit Administration Region III
Ernest Blais; Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration N.J. Division
Renee Sigel; Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration PA Division
Tony Cho; Community Planner, U.S. Dept. of Transportation, FTA, Region III
Jim Mosca, PennDOT
David Kuhn, NJDOT
Regional Citizens

3/15

RESOLUTION

by the Board of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

**DVRPC SELF CERTIFICATION OF THE TRANSPORTATION
PLANNING PROCESS**

WHEREAS, the US DOT Statewide and Metropolitan Planning Regulations (23 CFR Part 450 and 49 CFR part 613) which implement the planning provisions of 23 USC Sec.134 and 49 USC Sec.5303, requires the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to certify that its transportation planning process is in conformance with all applicable regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Planning Regulations require that a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process be carried out by the State and Local officials; and

WHEREAS, the requirements of Sections 174 and 176(c) and (d) of the Clean Air Act as amended (42 USC Sec 7504 and 7506 (c) and (d)), which require an air quality implementation plan that will bring the Metropolitan Area into conformance with requirements of the Clean Air Act; and require that the MPO not approve any project, program, or plan which does not conform to the aforementioned implementation plan, have been met; and

WHEREAS, private citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of transportation agency employees, other affected employee representatives, private providers of transportation, and other interested parties were provided with reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed Transportation Improvement Program, Long Range Plan and planning process; and

WHEREAS, the TIP has been financially constrained by year as required by Section 450.324(e) of the Planning Regulations; and

WHEREAS, the provision of 49 CFR part 20 regarding restrictions on influencing certain activities has been met; and

WHEREAS, the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Title VI assurance executed by each state under 23 USC Sec.324 and under 49 USC Sec.794 have been met and the requirements of Executive Order #12898 (Federal Order to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations) are being addressed; and,

B-FY13-002

4/15

WHEREAS, the requirements of 23 CFR and 49 CFR regarding the involvement of disadvantaged or minority business enterprises in FHWA and FTA funded planning projects have been met; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (Public Law 101-336, 104 Statute 327, as amended) and US DOT regulations entitled "Transportation for Individuals with Disabilities" (49 CFR, Parts 27, 37 and 38) have been met; and,

WHEREAS, DVRPC recognizes the federal standards that are in place, but strives to exceed those standards, whenever possible, to ensure the health of the region's citizens and the sustainability of the Delaware Valley.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the nine county Philadelphia, Camden and Trenton metropolitan areas, certifies that the urban transportation planning process is being carried out in conformance with all applicable Federal requirements and certifies that the local process to enhance the participation of the general public, including the transportation disadvantaged, has been followed in developing all plans and programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the respective Departments of Transportation of Pennsylvania and New Jersey for inclusion with the State certification that the planning process complies with FHWA/FTA joint regulations on Metropolitan Transportation Planning.

5/15

R.R.T.S.

Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc.

PO Box 285
Newtown, PA 18940
RRTSbuckspa5@aol.com

Mr. Barry Seymour, Executive Director
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
190 N. Independence Mall West, 8th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106

February 4, 2013

SUBJECT: Mr. Seymour's 01/16/13 letter in response to R.R.T.S.'s 01/08/13 letter
RE. Critical Part of April 2012 Public Participation Plan Is Not Workable

Dear Mr. Seymour,

Thank you for your letter dated January 16, 2013 (Exhibit I) in response to our January 8, 2013 letter **RE: Critical Part of April 2012 Public Participation Plan Is Not Workable** which was addressed to you, Regional Technical Committee (RTC) Members, and DVRPC Board Members (Exhibit II). As you know, we read our January 8, 2013 letter into the public record at the 01/08/13 RTC meeting, the 01/22/13 Public Participation Task Force meeting (see Exhibit III), and the 01/24/13 DVRPC Board meeting (see Exhibit IV). At each meeting, we requested that the reading of the letter be referenced in the meeting minutes and that the letter be included, in its entirety, in the minutes.

We would like to comment on three (3) statements that you made in your 01/16/13 letter.

- **YOUR STATEMENT:** "Citizen representatives are tasked with bringing their knowledge as a citizen to the RTC and to participate in those discussions with the other RTC members."

OUR COMMENT: Previous citizen representatives were actively representing issues relating to the regional issues within their communities. The new citizen representatives are appointed and, therefore, do not represent the citizens but represent those who appointed them.

- **YOUR STATEMENT:** "Their responsibility is not to gather formalized public input on action items."

OUR COMMENT: As a citizen representative, there must be some mechanism established by which the appointed person can learn and know the citizen position on the issues presented at the RTC meetings. Without it being formalized, how can there

6/15

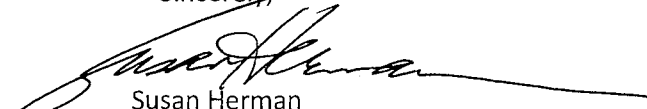
Attachment II
(pg 1/1)

be any confidence that the citizen representative is actually providing citizen input versus a biased perspective?

- **YOUR STATEMENT:** "This has never been the responsibility of any citizen representative on the RTC, including past Regional Citizens Committee (RCC) members, as you will recall."

OUR COMMENT: Previous RCC members were real citizen representatives advocating on behalf of citizens - NOT representatives appointed by county governments and DVRPC staff - so no formal procedure was required.

Sincerely,



Susan Herman
President

CC: Regional Technical Committee Members (c/o Michelle Webb, Chair)
DVRPC Board Members (c/o Terence Farrell, Chair)
PPTF Members (c/o Candace Snyder; Director, DVRPC Office of Public Affairs & Communications)
Candace Snyder; Director – Office of Public Affairs & Communications
Brigid Hynes-Cherin; Regional Administrator, Federal Transit Administration Region III
Ernest Blais; Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration N.J. Division
Renee Sigel; Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration PA Division
Tony Cho; Community Planner, U.S. Dept. of Transportation, FTA, Region III
Jim Mosca, PennDOT
David Kuhn, NJDOT
R.R.T.S. Membership (mass e-mail)
Regional Citizens

7/15

Attachment II
(pg. 2/7)

January 16, 2013

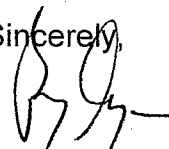
Ms. Susan Herman
President, Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc.
P.O. Box 285
Newtown, PA 18940

Dear Ms. Herman,

I am writing in response to your comment at the January 8, 2013 Regional Technical Committee (RTC) meeting and letter of the same date concerning citizen representation on the RTC. To correct a quote attributed to Candace Snyder, the Public Participation Task Force (PPTF) members who serve on the RTC receive a packet of information at the same time as every other RTC member. They do not receive information "just prior to the meeting." Citizen representatives are tasked with bringing their knowledge as a citizen to the RTC and to participate in those discussions with the other RTC members. Their responsibility is not to gather formalized public input on action items. This has never been the responsibility of any citizen representative on the RTC, including past Regional Citizens Committee (RCC) members, as you will recall.

Since 2011, DVRPC has instituted a "Public Comments to Board Actions" web commenting feature that gathers public input to be delivered directly to Board members, planning partners, and DVRPC staff. Members of the public may also submit emails, letters, or faxes on DVRPC actions, and are invited to directly comment at Board meetings. The Board, after all, is the final vote on all action items.

Sincerely,



Barry Seymour
Executive Director

cc: Candace Snyder; Director, DVRPC Office of Public Affairs
Brigid Hynes-Cherin; Regional Administrator, FTA
Ernest Blais; Division Administrator, FHWA NJ
Renee Sigel; Division Administrator, FHWA PA
Tony Cho; Community Planner, FTA
James Mosca; PENNDOT
David Kuhn; NJDOT

Attachment II
(pg. 3/7)

8/15

Exhibit II
(pg 1 of 2)

R.R.T.S.

Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc.

PO Box 285
Newtown, PA 18940
RRTSbucks5@aol.com

Mr. Barry Seymour, Executive Director
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
190 N. Independence Mall West, 8th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Regional Technical Committee Members
c/o ~~Stephen Buckley~~, Chair, *Michelle Webb*
190 N. Independence Mall West, 8th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106

DVRPC Board Members
c/o Terence Farrell, Chair
190 N. Independence Mall West, 8th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106

January 8, 2013

RE: Critical Part of April 2012 Public Participation Plan Is Not Workable

Dear Mr. Seymour, Regional Technical Committee Members, and DVRPC Members,

I am president of Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc. (RRTS), a regional citizens group with members from Lower Makefield, Upper Makefield, Newtown, Wrightstown, and Northampton Townships. Our organization represents well in excess of 9,000 residents. We are concerned that a critically important part of the recently implemented Public Participation Plan (Plan) is not workable.

With the current Plan, it is NOT possible for the Public Participation Task Force (PPTF) members who sit on the Regional Technical Committee (previously the Regional Transportation Committee) to cast their votes by taking a "regional perspective", as they have been asked to do. The September 11, 2012 Regional Transportation Committee Meeting Highlights state, "John Ward began by welcoming one of the new Public Participation Task Force (PPTF) members, Harry Fox. Mr. Fox is from Burlington County, and is a civil engineer who has been involved in numerous Boards and Commissions in Burlington County and Gloucester Counties, including chairing the Delran, NJ Zoning Board. Mr. Ward explained that the PPTF members represent a county or community but have been asked, in their role at the RTC, to take a regional perspective in their thoughts and their votes. He anticipates that they will eventually be voting members. Because the PPTF will not be taking action on RTC or Board items, their views will be as 'citizens of the region', and not representing a consensus of the PPTF. They will provide their feedback regarding the PCC/RTC meetings to the PPTF."

9/15

Attachment II
(pg 4/7)

Ex. II
(pg 2 of 2)

It is a fallacy to think that a PPTF member can vote with a "regional perspective" when he/she has no prior opportunity to discuss RTC action items in an open forum with other informed citizens in the region. At the November 15, 2012 inaugural PPTF meeting, Candace Snyder (Director, DVRPC Office of Public Affairs and Communications) confirmed that PPTF members who sit on the Regional Technical Committee (RTC) would be receiving their packet of information for preparation for the RTC meeting just prior to the meeting. This process does not enable the voting PPTF representatives on the RTC to gather formalized public input regarding action items that they will vote on, thus the process is flawed.

We respectfully request that PPTF representatives on the RTC abstain from voting on action items unless they have followed a formalized process of obtaining public input on the proposed action. Without this, the Public Participation Task Force must rethink its approach or it will fail in its effort to have genuine regional public input.

We appreciate the opportunity to read this letter into the public record at today's RTC meeting. We ask that this letter be referenced and included in its entirety in the minutes of today's meeting. We respectfully ask that the RTC and DVRPC Board respond to our request.

Sincerely,



Susan Herman
President

CC: Candace Snyder; Director – Office of Public Affairs & Communications
Brigid Hynes-Cherin; Regional Administrator, Federal Transit Administration Region III
Ernest Blais; Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration N.J. Division
Renee Sigel; Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration PA Division
Tony Cho; Community Planner, U.S. Dept. of Transportation, FTA, Region III
Jim Mosca, PennDOT
David Kuhn, NJDOT
R.R.T.S. Membership (mass e-mail)
Regional Citizens

10/15

Attachment II
(pg 5/7)

R.R.T.S.

Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc.

PO Box 285
Newtown, PA 18940
RRTSbucks5@aol.com

Candace Snyder; Director, DVRPC Office of Public Affairs and Communications
190 N. Independence Mall West, 8th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Public Participation Task Force (PPTF) Members
c/o DVRPC
190 N. Independence Mall West, 8th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106

January 22, 2013

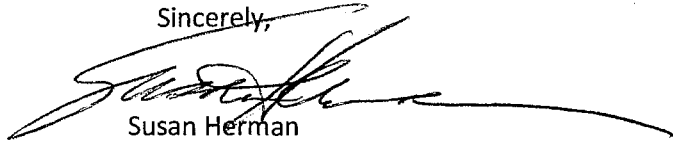
RE: Critical Part of April 2012 Public Participation Plan Is Not Workable

Dear Ms. Snyder and PPTF Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to read the following letter into the public record at tonight's PPTF meeting. The letter, dated January 8, 2013, is from Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc. to Mr. Barry Seymour, Regional Technical Committee Members, and DVRPC Board Members. The subject is ***RE: Critical Part of April 2012 Public Participation Plan Is Not Workable.***

We ask (a) that the reading of this [1/8/13] letter be referenced in the minutes of tonight's meeting, and (b) that the [1/8/13] letter be included in the minutes in its entirety. We also ask that the video of tonight's meeting that will appear on the DVRPC's website include the reading of the 1/8/13 letter.

Sincerely,



Susan Herman
President

CC: Barry Seymour; Executive Director, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Regional Technical Committee Members: c/o Michelle Webb, Chair
DVRPC Board Members; c/o Terence Farrell, Chair
Brigid Hynes- Cherin; Regional Administrator, Federal Transit Administration Region III*
Ernest Blais; Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration N.J. Division*
Renee Sigel; Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration PA Division*
Tony Cho; Community Planner, U.S. Dept. of Transportation, FTA, Region III*
Jim Mosca, PennDOT*
David Kuhn, NJDOT*
R.R.T.S. Membership (mass e-mail)
Regional Citizens

11/15

Attachment II
(pg 6/7)

R.R.T.S.

Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc.

PO Box 285
Newtown, PA 18940
RRTSbucks5@aol.com

Mr. Barry Seymour, Executive Director
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
190 N. Independence Mall West, 8th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106

DVRPC Board Members
c/o Terence Farrell, Chair
190 N. Independence Mall West, 8th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106

January 24, 2013

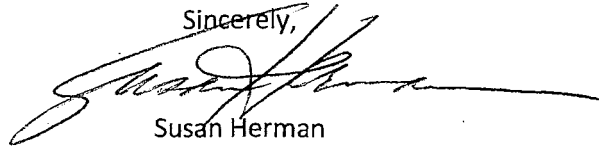
RE: Critical Part of April 2012 Public Participation Plan Is Not Workable

Dear Mr. Seymour and DVRPC Board Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to read the following letter into the public record at today's DVRPC Board meeting. The letter, dated January 8, 2013, is from Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc. to Mr. Barry Seymour, Regional Technical Committee Members, and DVRPC Board Members. The subject is ***RE: Critical Part of April 2012 Public Participation Plan Is Not Workable.***

We ask that the reading of this [1/8/13] letter be referenced in the minutes of today's meeting and that the [1/8/13] letter be included in the minutes in its entirety.

Sincerely,



Susan Herman
President

CC: Brigid Hynes- Cherin; Regional Administrator, Federal Transit Administration Region III*
Ernest Blais; Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration N.J. Division*
Renee Sigel; Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration PA Division*
Tony Cho; Community Planner, U.S. Dept. of Transportation, FTA, Region III*
Jim Mosca, PennDOT*
David Kuhn, NJDOT*
R.R.T.S. Membership (mass e-mail)
Regional Citizens

Attachment II
(pg 7/7)

12/15

**MEETING HIGHLIGHTS OF
THE DVRPC PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TASK FORCE
MAY 16, 2013**

Attendees: David Cohen, Nancy DeLucia, Quibila Divine, Harry Fox, James Hopkins, Elise Mannella, Aissia Richardson, Chuck Romick, Andrew Seligsohn, Joyce Smith, Tahirih Smith, Elizabeth Walsh (PPTF Members); Dennis Winters, Tom McHugh, Andy Sharpe (Guests); Candace Snyder, Sean Greene, Stacy Bartels, Joe Fazekas, Julia Strapp (Staff)

Welcome and Meeting Overview

Candace Snyder, DVRPC Director of Public Affairs, welcomed members and guests to the PPTF meeting and reviewed meeting procedures. James Hopkins, Acting Chair, facilitated the meeting.

Tracking Progress: Connections 2040

Sean Greene, DVRPC Senior Transportation Planner, provided an update to PPTF members on the contents of a new publication that explores the region's progress in achieving goals set by the long-range plan (LRP). The publication, *Tracking Progress*, is a simple breakdown of vast amounts of data using 31 discrete indicators as benchmarks, with 17 of them showing mixed or positive progress for our region. A convenient meter graphic is set next to each indicator to show at a glance whether the region is moving in a positive or negative direction. *Tracking Progress* can be viewed at:

http://www.dvrpc.org/asp/pubs/publicationabstract.asp?pub_id=13044.

The indicators included in this Tracking Progress report will help inform the policies and objectives of the *Connections* Long-Range Plan, which is currently being updated and expected to be adopted in July 2013.

The Greater Philadelphia region is showing encouraging progress in areas such as air quality, public open space preservation, and transit ridership. However, the region is reaching a critical point regarding equity issues between Developed Communities and Growing Suburbs, as well as transportation infrastructure degradation due to lack of funding. Visit <http://www.dvrpc.org/WhichWayNow/> to learn more about the state of the transportation network.

In addition to the publication, the online platform is also being developed and will allow for the information to be updated as new data becomes available. The regional indicators can be viewed at <http://www.dvrpc.org/trackingprogress>.

PPTF members had some questions about why certain candidates for regional indicators were omitted. It was explained that in order for a topic to become an indicator, it must meet stringent criteria, such as having application to all nine counties, and the raw data must be available.

RideECO and Commuter Services

Stacy Bartels, DVRPC Manager, Marketing and Commuter Services, presented an overview of the DVRPC-owned commuter benefits program. DVRPC has provided this service since 1991 when it was initiated as part of the Clean Air legislation, but just last year rebranded it as RideECO and began a new marketing campaign.

"Ride" is intended to signify the program's promotion of shared commuting such as mass transit and vanpools, while "ECO" stands for Easy Commute Options. The update brings a fresh new logo, clever transit advertisements, and a stored value card that will eventually be compatible with SEPTA's new fare system. However, the many aspects of the program that users have come to know will stay the same, such as the pre-tax benefits, balances that can carry over from year-to-year, and easy fare purchasing options. A phone application is being developed that would allow users to check balances and public transportation schedules.

Ms. Bartels asked PPTF members to consider how they can help with the new direction of RideECO and what staff can work on to better implement the program and spread the word.

The presentation may be found at:

<http://www.dvrpc.org/ASP/committee/Presentations/PPTF/2013-05.pdf>.

Committee Business and Upcoming Outreach and Events

* In light of declining attendance at PPTF meetings, Candace Snyder asked members to consider the structure of meetings, their frequency, and potential agenda items that could be incorporated in the future, such as guest speakers and a Work Program Project Development Workshop.

The public comment period for the NJ TIP is now open and will conclude on June 18, 2013. The TIP is the regionally agreed-upon list of priority transportation projects, as required by federal law. The draft document for Fiscal Year 2014 can be found at <http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/capital/cpd/>.

A public meeting regarding the NJ TIP will take place on June 12 at the Cherry Hill Library at 4 p.m. More information about the meeting and online commenting is available on the DVRPC website at http://www.dvrpc.org/GetInvolved/PublicNotices/2013-05_TIP.htm.

Additionally, a long-range plan information session will take place on May 21 in West Philadelphia and a discussion of the Camden County Bike Plan on May 29 at the Camden County Boathouse. More information about these events may be found on the DVRPC calendar at <http://www.dvrpc.org/asp/cal>.

One Minute Reports from PPTF Members

Task Force members were invited to provide updates on the activities of their organizations/municipalities/neighborhoods.

Tahirih Smith reported that the Sustainable Jersey task forces known as "Green Teams" have been very successful in developing plans, implementing programs, and assisting with educational opportunities that support the creation of a sustainable community. She noted that the next step is to form larger, regional task forces in order to share resources and visions for greater efficacy.

Joyce Smith reported that the Community Design Collaborative has completed a conceptual design for the revitalization of the 4200 block of Viola Street in the Philadelphia neighborhood of East Parkside.

14/15

David Cohen commented that Cheltenham Township had completed a draft Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan in cooperation with Abington Township, Jenkintown, Springfield Township and Philadelphia, which upon adoption by the jurisdictions would provide for a means to implement improvements to the waste water systems in the area, and which would allow for increased development in the area.

Aissia Richardson reported that SEPTA's operating and capital budgets have been pushed back for approval until the June board meeting to allow the state time to cap the \$38 million budget deficit, an unprecedented occurrence for SEPTA but not unusual for comparable organizations. In the meantime, SEPTA will operate on a month to month extension of the previous budget.

SEPTA's Citizen Advisory Committee will meet on May 28 at 5:45 pm, 1234 Market, Room 718, to discuss SEPTA's harnessing of energy that it generates to use as well as sell back.

In celebration of the Route 3 bus extension into Smith Memorial Playground on weekends, the Clef Club Youth Jazz Ensemble will play John Coltrane's "My Favorite Things" as the bus loops into the playground on its first official run. The date of the event, titled "Jazz at Play", is yet to be determined.

Elizabeth Walsh noted that the federal government's sequestration will likely affect workforce development and asked whether DVRPC would be affected. Ms. Snyder replied that it is not likely to impact DVRPC.

Public Comments and Questions

Tom McHugh noted that there was much mention of greenhouse gas emissions in an older version of the long-range plan, *Connections 2030*, while the current draft version, *Connections 2040*, does not devote as much text on the topic. Similarly, while he enjoyed using the *Which Way Now?* online application, he suggested that more information on the levels of regional greenhouse gas emissions should have been provided so that users would be educated before providing input.