

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

BOARD COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of December 9, 2015

Location: Hilton Philadelphia at Penn's Landing
201 S Christopher Columbus Blvd
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Membership Present

Representative

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
New Jersey Department of Transportation
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (phone)

Sean Thompson
David Kuhn
James Ritzman
James Mosca
Chris Howard
(not represented)
Nedia Ralston
Diane Ellis-Marseglia

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

Lynn Bush
Michele Kichline
Brian O'Leary
John McBlain
Linda Hill
Valerie Arkoosh
Jody Holton

Chester County

(not represented)
Lou Cappelli

Delaware County

Montgomery County

Andrew Levecchia
Theresa Ziegler
Leslie Floyd

Burlington County
Camden County

Matthew Lawson
(not represented)
Denise Goren
Mayor Dana Redd
(not represented)

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

Calvin Edghill

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	Byron Comati
New Jersey Transit Corporation	Lou Millan
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	(not represented)
Delaware River Port Authority	Barbara Holcomb
Port Authority Transit Corporation	Ben Cornelius
New Jersey Office of Planning Advocacy	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development	Aliyah Furman

DVRPC Co-Counsel

Pennsylvania Co-Counsel	Andrew Bockis
New Jersey Co-Counsel	Thomas Coleman

DVRPC Staff: Barry Seymour, John Ward, Patty Elkis, Chris Puchalsky, Tom McGovern, Matt Gates, Mary Bell, John Griffies, and Renee Wise.

Guests

City of Camden	Novella Hinson
NJ Transit	Jeremy Colangelo-Bryan
Bucks County	Rich Brahler

Call to Order - Chair's Comments

Chair Mayor Dana Redd called the meeting to order at 4:42 p.m. and asked if there was any press in the room.

DVRPC Executive Director Barry Seymour noted that Jim Ritzman and Jim Mosca from PennDOT were participating in the meeting by phone.

Public Comments on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items

No public comments were received.

Action Items

1. Minutes of Meeting of October 22, 2015

The Board adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by Ms. Goren, seconded by Mr. Kuhn, to approve the minutes of October 22, 2015. Ms. Floyd abstained.

2. DVRPC Draft Fiscal Year 2017 Planning Work Program

John Griffies, DVRPC Contracts Manager, explained that authorization is being sought to distribute for review and comment the Draft Fiscal Year 2017 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.

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

MOTION by Mr. Cappelli, seconded by Mr. Kuhn, that the Board authorize:

The distribution of the DVRPC Draft Fiscal Year 2017 Planning Work Program for review and comment.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. Creation of DVRPC Local Subsidiary

Executive Director Barry Seymour explained that over the years, there have been a number of significant regional issues which would have been appropriate for action or consideration at DVRPC, that were not addressed for a variety of reasons:

- There may have been different positions or interests between the two states;
- There may have been different positions or interests between the counties and the states;
- It may have seemed outside the traditional scope for DVRPC; or
- We were unable to secure funding for the work from a foundation or other source.

DVRPC is a unique entity with a unique structure, that regularly brings together elected and appointed officials from across the metropolitan area. Our federally-mandated responsibility as the region's MPO requires that these entities work cooperatively to plan and program transportation improvements, and we have now done so successfully for 50 years. Since the start in 1965, we have gone beyond that mandate, to link our transportation planning with consideration of land use patterns, open space and environmental protection, and economic development opportunities. We have also engaged in new issues, including

energy efficiency, climate change, and food system planning, but the existing membership and relationships of the DVRPC Board members could enable an even broader role, utilizing the existing staff of DVRPC to take on other regional issues and priorities.

One possible approach to enable our local members to work together across the region is the creation of one or more subsidiaries or non-profit organizations at DVRPC. As proposed, this could be structured as a single bi-state organization to include the nine counties, or there could be two organizations for southeastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey. The creation of such an entity at DVRPC could enable a degree of flexibility that is now limited by the current Board structure, freeing this group to address important local issues, or perhaps advocate for positions or legislation that the current Board structure would not permit. It might also be able to raise funds from foundations or the private sector and apply them to projects or programs not now eligible through regular DVRPC programs. Similar, separate non-profit parallel organizations are in place at other regional agencies, including Pittsburgh, Kansas City, and Hartford. Each has proven useful there to secure additional funding to address key regional issues as identified by their members. For example, Hartford has used their foundation to provide Civilian Emergency Response Team training, and Kansas City has used theirs to advance a regional early learning program.

In our region, priority issues would be determined by our members, but could include the following examples:

- Pursue joint funding for city and county partners to support regional priorities, such as a healthy communities consortium or a regional resilience and adaptation strategy.
- Create a regional economic development program to better compete for federal, state, foundation or private funding opportunities.
- Undertake local initiatives to support city, county and municipal governments, such as the recent joint procurement of municipal streetlights, or regional training and equipment purchases for emergency services.
- Advance short-term quick turn-around projects that emerge as regional issues that are outside of the regular DVRPC Work Program.
- Advocate for legislative proposals in support of our planning principles at the state or federal levels; and
- Develop regional funding strategies and structures to support regional infrastructure priorities or other services that could be shared and provided at a regional scale.

If we are to consider pursuing such an approach, there are a number of steps that would need to first be undertaken:

1. Confirm that DVRPC and its members could establish a subsidiary organization. There does not appear to be any prohibition in the enabling legislation, but this would need to be confirmed.
2. Identify the appropriate geographic scope and membership. As noted, this could be an organization for all nine counties, or organized separately and independently for each state sub-region.
3. Determine the preferred structure. This could be one or more 501(c) (3) organizations established for “educational and scientific purposes” with a Board, membership and by- laws distinct from the DVRPC Board. Unlike the cities and counties individually, DVRPC does appear to qualify for establishing a 501(c)(3).
4. Consider funding alternatives. For example, a separate fund could be established (and would need to be to keep accounting clear) that could receive foundation or other funds to support activities as identified. Such a fund could also receive public or private funds.
5. Select priority issues to advance. These may well depend on the geography and membership structure selected, and local concerns to be determined.

Mr. Seymour asked Board members for their thoughts. Ms. Kichline, Commissioner of Chester County, asked if there have been any models of this around the nation.

Mr. Seymour noted that there have and that he had discussions with the Executive Directors of other MPOs that have undertaken this action. Mr. Cappelli, Camden County Freeholder Director, expressed some concern regarding the subsidiary creating a competitive structure. Mr. Edghill, FHWA NJ, commented that the subsidiary would create the ability to reallocate resources locally which would be useful and could allow more economic development. Ms. Floyd, Mercer County, and Ms. Goren, City of Philadelphia, expressed some concerns regarding whether this idea would be branching too far afield from DVRPC’s mission. Chair, Mayor Dana Redd suggested that the Board continue this discussion after further research and examples have been provided.

4. One Minute Reports

Ben Cornelius, PATCO, reported that PATCO’s track work on the Ben Franklin Bridge is wrapping up.

Barbara Holcomb, DRPA, thanked DVRPC staff for their hard work and wished everyone a happy and healthy holiday and new year.

Lou Millan, NJ Transit, reported that NJ Transit’s Executive Director has resigned and that a replacement will be appointed soon.

Byron Comati, SEPTA, reported that SEPTA will be running extra service on the Broad Street Line because of the Army/Navy game. SEPTA will be running a new schedule on its Regional Rail Line and the Airport Line will also have schedule changes.

Tony Cho, FTA, reported that the FTA has a new Deputy Regional Administrator, Anthony Tarone.

Calvin Edghill, FHWA NJ, reported that there is more in the Federal Transportation bill than was expected and that as a result of the bill his office may be adding staff.

Dave Kuhn, NJDOT, reported that Governor Christie has appointed Richard T. Hammer as the new Secretary of Transportation. Mr. Hammer's confirmation hearing will be happening soon.

Leslie Floyd, Mercer County, reported that the roundabouts in Mercer County have been approved. She thanked DVRPC for their assistance with this.

Diane Ellis-Marseglia, Bucks County, congratulated Mr. Seymour on his interview on KYW 1060 in which he discussed roadway shoulders.

Valerie Arkoosh, Montgomery County, reported that she attended an event hosted by the Economy League of Greater Philadelphia on the economic impacts of the high speed line to King of Prussia. It was an informative and useful event.

Dana Redd, City of Camden, reported that Camden City just welcomed Suburu to the Knights Crossing area. She thanked Freeholder Director Cappelli, Governor Christie, and Lieutenant Governor Guadagno for their assistance in bringing more economic development to the city.

Jim Ritzman, PennDOT, reported that the new federal transportation bill, FAST Act, will add roughly \$126 million to the regional TIP.

5. Executive Director's Report

a. Federal Transportation Funding Bill

Mr. Seymour reported that the new federal transportation funding bill (FAST Act) was passed last week. The bill has some tweaks in it but nothing radical. There are two additional factors to consider at the MPO level; travel and tourism, and climate change/storm water management. The bill maintains many of the elements already in place and increases funding moderately. Mr. Seymour noted that a summary of the bill is included in the Board packets.

b. Mid-Atlantic Roundtable

Mr. Seymour called the Board's attention to the Mid-Atlantic Roundtable which took place at the end of October in Wilmington, Delaware. The event provided an opportunity for discussion with the Executive Directors of the Wilmington and Baltimore MPOs.

c. Energy Vision Workshop

Mr. Seymour noted that he recently attended an Energy Vision Workshop led by Penn and Drexel. The workshop included a mix of industry, utility, and environmental groups. The objective was to bring together a group around energy policy and reach a consensus about energy in the region.

d. Equity Through Access Study

Mr. Seymour reported that this study is an update to the Coordinated Human Services Plan and focuses on regional analysis, stakeholder outreach, and local case studies in lower Bucks County, Haddon Avenue in Camden, and Gloucester County.

e. Traffic Club of Greater Philadelphia

Mr. Seymour called the Board's attention to the fact that DVRPC is being honored as the Company of the Year at a dinner held by the Traffic Club of Greater Philadelphia on January 21 at the Westin Hotel in Philadelphia. He asked Board members to let him know if they would like to attend.

f. Grant Writing Workshop

Mr. Seymour noted that DVRPC will be holding a grant writing workshop at DVRPC's office on January 22, 2016.

g. Air Quality Conformity

Mr. Seymour reported that two new projects are advancing into the TIP and that as a result conformity will need to be run. A public comment period will also be opened in January and this will require Board action in February.

h. Regional Streetlight Procurement Program

Mr. Seymour called the Board's attention to the fact that an RFP was issued for the Regional Streetlight Procurement Program and four firms have responded. A Committee of six municipalities served as the selection committee, with an outside consultant providing technical advice. Johnson Controls was selected

and will enter into individual agreements with up to 45 municipalities to perform the work.

i. New Report Releases

Mr. Seymour noted that DVRPC has completed some new reports including: (1) Race Street Road Diet (2) City Branch Analysis (3) Transit Signal Priority in New Jersey (4) Municipal Implementation Tool: Attracting Immigrant Newcomers

j. Senator Casey Letter

Mr. Seymour called the Board's attention to a congratulatory letter from Pennsylvania Senator Robert Casey. Mr. Seymour noted that the letter could be found in the Board folders.

6. Committee Reports

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

- (1) Regional Technical Committee
- (2) Transportation Operations Task Force
- (3) Central Jersey Transportation Forum
- (4) Public Participation Task Force
- (5) Healthy Communities Task Force

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was stated.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was stated.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m. on a **MOTION** by Ms. Goren, seconded by Ms. Ralston.

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, and related nondiscrimination statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. DVRPC's website, www.dvrpc.org, may be translated into multiple languages. Publications and other public documents can be made available in alternative languages and formats, if requested. DVRPC public meetings are always held in ADA-accessible facilities and in transit-accessible locations when possible. Auxiliary services can be provided to individuals who submit a request at

least seven days prior to a meeting. Requests made within seven days will be accommodated to the greatest extent possible. Any person who believes they have been aggrieved by an unlawful discriminatory practice by DVRPC under Title VI has a right to file a formal complaint. Any such complaint may be in writing and filed with DVRPC's Title VI Compliance Manager and/or the appropriate state or federal agency within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory occurrence. For more information on DVRPC's Title VI program, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, please call (215) 238-2871 or email public_affairs@dvrpc.org.

I certify that this is a true and correct copy.

Renee Wise, Recording Secretary