

DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

BOARD COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting of December 4, 2019

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

Membership Present

Representative

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs	Sean Thompson
New Jersey Department of Transportation	Eric Powers
New Jersey Governor's Appointee	Dan Kelly
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation	Jim Mosca
Pennsylvania Governor's Appointee	Gina Burritt
Pennsylvania Governor's Policy & Planning Office	(not represented)
Bucks County	Rich Brahler
Chester County	Michelle Kichline
Delaware County	Linda Hill
Montgomery County	Val Arkoosh
	Jody Holton
Burlington County	Mark Remsa
Camden County	Andrew Levecchia
Gloucester County	(not represented)
Mercer County	Leslie Floyd
City of Chester	Peter Rykard
City of Philadelphia	Chris Puchalsky
City of Camden	June Morton
City of Trenton	(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	(not represented)
Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority	Elizabeth Smith
New Jersey Transit Corporation	Lou Millan
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	(not represented)
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	Sachin Shankar
Delaware River Port Authority	Barbara Holcomb
Port Authority Transit Corporation	Rohan Hepkins

New Jersey Office of Planning Advocacy
Pennsylvania Department of Community and
Economic Development

(not represented)

Michael Shorr

DVRPC Co-Counsel
Pennsylvania Co-Counsel
New Jersey Co-Counsel

Andy Bockis
Tom Coleman

DVRPC Staff

Barry Seymour, John Ward, Patty Elkins, Alison Hastings, Elizabeth Schoonmaker, Greg Krykewycz, Mike Boyer, Karin Morris, Katie Nash, Natalie Cramer, Jesse Buerk, Sonia Lee, Paul Smith, Van Doan, Will Stevens, Jennifer Yocco, Shawn Megill-Legendre, Tom Keenan, Glenn McNichol, and Renee Wise.

Guests

PennDOT District 6
Resident of Cheltenham

Jonathan Korus
Bridget Chadwick

Call to Order - Chair's Comments

Chair Sean Thompson called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Mr. Thompson asked if there was any press in the room and if anyone was recording the meeting.

DVRPC Executive Director Barry Seymour noted that at everyone's seat is a t-shirt which was designed by a DVRPC graphic artist. The t-shirts were made using interest on DVRPC's general fund and no federal or state funds were used. These t-shirts are of a nominal value and may be used for future public give-aways. Mr. Seymour indicated that if Board members need to exchange their shirts for a different size they are welcome to do so.

Public Comments on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items

No public comments were stated.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Minutes of Meeting of October 24, 2019

The Board adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by *Ms. Burritt*, seconded by *Ms. Morton*, to approve the minutes of October 24, 2019.

Motion passed. All votes were cast in favor of the motion.

2. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Actions

Elizabeth Schoonmaker, DVRPC Associate Director, Transportation Programs presented the following TIP actions to the Board:

a. PA19-94: PA 309, Sellersville Bypass, Resurfacing (MPMS #86923), Bucks County

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2019 TIP for Pennsylvania by decreasing the construction phase for the PA 309, Sellersville Bypass, Resurfacing (MPMS #86923) project, in the amount of \$21,533,000 (\$17,268,000 NHPP/\$4,265,000 State 581) in FY26. The decrease in construction funding is the result of low bid cost savings and does not represent a change in the project's scope. The overall construction cost, including low bid and inspection, for this project is \$58,841,000.

This project is a "3R" (Resurfacing/Restoration/Rehabilitation) project and includes the resurfacing, concrete patching, saw and seal, repair or upgrading of the guiderail, mile post sign repair and replacement, pavement marker installation, drainage and safety signage of approximately 17.34 segment miles on PA 309 (Sellersville Bypass) in Richland Township, Bucks County.

Financial Constraint will be maintained by making adjustments to other existing TIP projects whose schedules or costs have changed. All projects listed contribute to fiscal constraint.

b. PA19-95: US 202, Morris Road to Swedesford Road (MPMS #63491), Montgomery County

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2019 TIP for Pennsylvania by decreasing the construction phase for the US 202, Morris Road to Swedesford Road project (MPMS #63491) in the amount of \$24,468,000 (FY24: \$9,907,000 STU/\$2,327,000 State 581; FY25: \$9,907,000 STP/\$2,327,000 State 581). The decrease in construction funding is the result of low bid cost savings and does not represent a change in the project's scope. The overall construction cost for this project, including low bid and inspection, is \$42,431,000.

This project includes the widening of US 202 from two lanes to five lanes within the 2.6 mile section between Morris Road and Swedesford Road within Upper and Lower Gwynedd Townships, Upper Duplin Township, and Whitpain Township in Montgomery County.

This project includes intersection improvements at Morris Road, Sumneytown Pike, and Swedesford Road. A center turn lane will be added where required and a new bridge over the Wissahickon Creek with a wider single-span structure and equestrian path beneath the roadway will be added. A coordinated ITS and traffic signal operating system will be integrated into the project. Bike lanes adjacent to the outside travel lane will be provided in both the northbound and southbound directions.

Financial Constraint will be maintained by making adjustments to other existing TIP projects whose schedules or costs have changed. All projects listed contribute to fiscal constraint.

Favorable recommendation was received from the Regional Technical Committee.

The Board adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by *Mr. Brahler*, seconded by *Mr. Mosca* that the Board adopt the following TIP actions:

PA19-94, PennDOT's request that DVRPC amend the FY2019 TIP for Pennsylvania by decreasing the construction phase for the PA 309, Sellersville Bypass, Resurfacing (MPMS #86923) project, in the amount of \$21,533,000 (\$17,268,000 NHPP/\$4,265,000 State 581) in FY26.

PA19-95, PennDOT's request that DVRPC amend the FY2019 TIP for Pennsylvania by decreasing the construction phase for the US 202, Morris Road to Swedesford Road project (MPMS #63491) in the amount of \$24,468,000 (FY24: \$9,907,000 STU/\$2,327,000 State 581; FY25: \$9,907,000 STP/\$2,327,000 State 581).

Motion passed. All votes were cast in favor of the motion.

c. PA19-96: JFK Boulevard at 32nd Street over SEPTA (30th Street Station) (Bridge) (MPMS #78757), City of Philadelphia

PennDOT has requested that DVRPC amend the FY2019 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing the utility phase for the JFK Boulevard at 32nd Street over SEPTA (30th Street Station) (Bridge) project (MPMS #78757) by \$21,908,000, and reprogram the utility phase accordingly: FY20: \$3,423,000 State 185/\$652,000 State 581; FY21: \$4,561,000 State 185/\$1,532,000 State 581; FY22: \$5,919,000 State 185/\$4,270,000 State 581; FY23: \$1,875,000 State 185/\$769,000 State 581, for an overall cost of \$23,001,000 for the utility phase. The utility phase will now be funded with all state funds to enable SEPTA to encumber the funds to address the needed utility flag work. The cost of the construction phase will remain the same, and will remain an 80%/20% federal/state funding pro-rata.

This project will rehabilitate the JFK Boulevard at 32nd Street bridge over SEPTA. This bridge is part a 395 foot long tunnel over two electrified SEPTA regional rail tracks west of 30th Street Station in West Philadelphia. JFK Boulevard is located on the top deck of the structure. Three commuter rail lines use these tracks. The bridge is rated at "Poor Condition" and on September 12, 2019, a lane closure was implemented due to the deterioration of a support column.

This project includes deck and sidewalk repairs and replacement, joint replacement, steel superstructure and substructure repairs and replacement, drainage upgrades, and

concrete substructure repairs. The project will also include streetscape improvements such as bike lanes and street lighting upgrades.

For this project, SEPTA has agreed to incorporate the rehabilitation work inside the tunnel into a project they have scheduled for Summer 2020, which includes a continuous three-week outage of the rail lines. The utility phase increase is for SEPTA to perform this rehabilitation work. Rail line outages are required to work on the bridge. Substitute busing will be provided for two rail lines and the third line will be rerouted to an Amtrak platform at 30th Street Station. The additional travel time for the rail passengers will be significant. Planning for these outages has been underway for years in advance of this project. This utility phase of the project is the SEPTA phase. There will be a follow-up phase (referred to as the PennDOT phase), which will complete the rehabilitation work on the bridge deck itself. The let date for the SEPTA phase is scheduled for February 2020. The let date for the follow-up PennDOT phase is scheduled for March 2021.

Financial Constraint will be maintained by making adjustments to other existing TIP projects whose schedules or costs have changed. All projects listed contribute to fiscal constraint.

Jim Mosca, PennDOT, commented that he really appreciates SETPA's cooperation on this project.

Favorable recommendation was received from the Regional Technical Committee.

The Board adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by *Mr. Mosca*, seconded by *Mr. Puchalsky* that the Board adopt the following TIP action:

PA19-96, PennDOT's request that DVRPC amend the FY2019 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing the utility phase for the JFK Boulevard at 32nd Street over SEPTA (30th Street Station) (Bridge) (MPMS #78757) project by \$21,908,000, and reprogram the utility phase accordingly: FY20: \$3,423,000 State 185/\$652,000 State 581; FY21: \$4,561,000 State 185/\$1,532,000 State 581; FY22: \$5,919,000 State 185/\$4,270,000 State 581; FY23: \$1,875,000 State 185/\$769,000 State 581, for an overall cost of \$23,001,000 for the utility phase.

Motion passed. All votes were cast in favor of the motion.

3. Release of Draft FY2020-FY2021 DVRPC Unified Planning Work Program for Review and Comment

John Ward, DVRPC Deputy Executive Director, explained that authorization is being sought to distribute for review and comment the Draft FY2020-FY2021 Planning Work Program consisting of : (1) DVRPC's Regular Work Program; (2) Supportive Regional Highway Planning Program (SRHPP); and (3) Transit Support Program (TSP). This

document covers the time period from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 and 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 draft document will be made available to Board members at the December Board Meeting, posted on the DVRPC website, and hard copies will be sent to the regional libraries and tribal governments. All comments should be directed to public_affairs@dvrpc.org.

Mr. Ward noted that the Regional Technical Committee did not vote on this action because the Work Program was not yet ready for review at that time.

Chris Puchalsky, City of Philadelphia, noted that there is often a table with TIP asks for funding within the work program. He asked if that will be provided. Mr. Ward responded that it will be provided in January when the Board gets the final Work Program. Mr. Puchalsky noted that he is excited about the new EXPO initiative and asked if all of the money will be used to fund staff or if some of it is for materials as well. Mr. Ward responded that some of the funding could be used for materials but that we could also potentially have a lending library of products for use. DVRPC Executive Director Barry Seymour noted that the Cleveland MPO uses the lending library approach and that DVRPC staff is very excited about the idea of instituting that idea. Mr. Ward noted that the EXPO effort in West Chester was very successful with the use of bollards, cones, and other materials. Barbara Holcomb, DRPA, thanked DVRPC staff for all of their work in compiling the Work Program. Jim Mosca, PennDOT, thanked DVRPC for participating in the meeting with FHWA and PennDOT to discuss guidelines for the Work Program. He noted that DVRPC is always at the forefront and produces a great product. Mr. Seymour encouraged Board members to submit comments on the Work Program and he thanked partners for their input and participation throughout the process.

The Board adopted the following **motion**:

MOTION by *Ms. Floyd*, seconded by *Mr. Levecchia* that the Board:

Authorize distribution of the DVRPC Draft FY2020-FY2021 Planning Work Program for review and comment.

Motion passed. All votes were cast in favor of the motion.

INFORMATION ITEM

4. DVRPC Communications and Engagement Fiscal Year-In-Review

Alison Hastings, DVRPC Manager, Office of Communications and Engagement, and Elise Turner, DVRPC Communications Manager, explained that DVRPC's Office of Communications & Engagement (OCE) is responsible for strategic and tactical communications, public engagement for the Commission's core documents and decision-making processes, and documenting Title VI and EJ compliance efforts, among other activities. These responsibilities go hand-in-hand as the

Commission continually seeks to hear from many different voices from throughout the region.

Andrew Levecchia, Camden County, asked how the number of DVRPC followers compares to other MPOs and how do we get more individuals engaged. Ms. Turner responded that DVRPC is at the top in comparison with other MPOs. She noted that once DVRPC has an announcement we let partners know and we rely on and leverage their platforms and followers and this allows the Commission to have a broader reach. Ms. Hastings noted that a lot of our partners are direct service providers that have more followers so we really do rely on them. DVRPC Executive Director Barry Seymour noted that we are trying to push information out and we are happy to share our partners' content. Barbara Holcomb, DRPA, commented that this presentation shows how DVRPC is always trying to do better and act and react to comments and suggestions.

PRESENTATION ITEM

5. Diversity and Inclusion at DVRPC

DVRPC Executive Director Barry Seymour introduced Tony Ladipo, Founder and CEO of the Ladipo Group, LLC. Ms. Ladipo explained that over the past year, the DVRPC staff has been working with The Ladipo Group to assess DVRPC's professional culture, diversity and inclusion, employee engagement and human resources practices to identify strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for improvement. Through staff interviews, surveys, assessments, a D&I Committee, and leadership engagement, The Ladipo Group has identified a series of actions and training for moving forward.

Mark Remsa, Burlington County, complimented DVRPC on taking on this effort. He noted that the numbers shown from the surveys about harassment at DVRPC are interesting and asked if there was any way to know if the harassment was employee to employee or manager to employee. Ms. Ladipo responded that it was both. Peter Rykard, City of Chester, asked if those that took the surveys and answered regarding micro-aggressions responded in a personal way or in a way that indicated that the incident actually happened. Ms. Ladipo responded that in some cases it was clear that the respondents did have that experience but they may not have known the definition of micro-aggressions.

Mr. Seymour commented that there is a lot to unpack with this analysis. There have never been any formal actions brought to HR about this but if one person feels this way that is one too many. We would like to see DVRPC staff's composition look more like the Board's composition and be reflective of the region for which we are planning and we would like to see everyone feel comfortable here at DVRPC. In looking at the question of whether anyone has ever experienced or witnessed harassment or macroaggressions it is important to remember that many of our employees have been here for a long time. Mr. Seymour noted that he has been here for 29 years and has

experienced or witnessed harassment, but over such a long period of time it is not necessarily so simple to analyze. We have already tried to address things a number of ways and will be continuing to do so through training and other measures. Andrew Levecchia noted that the HR staff at DVRPC is very small and asked Ms. Ladipo if she recommends more support. Ms. Ladipo responded that she does. Mr. Seymour noted that DVRPC is providing the HR department with as much support as possible. Sean Thompson, NJ DCA, asked what staff expected out of this. Ms. Ladipo responded that they wanted to know about the survey results and to see transparency in pay and a staff makeup that is representative of the region. Mr. Seymour commented that we do work really hard trying to support and advance people and communicate practices and opportunities. Mr. Levecchia asked if DVRPC does exit interviews. Mr. Seymour responded that we do. June Morton, City of Camden, asked if any of the survey results indicated gender discrimination. Ms. Ladipo responded that there was interest in seeing more women in leadership roles at DVRPC. Ms. Ladipo noted that DVRPC needs to look at not just diversity at the entry level but upwards. Succession planning is extremely important. Barbara Holcomb, DRPA, asked if DVRPC looks at equity in pay for men versus women. Mr. Seymour noted that the HR department does look at this.

DISCUSSION ITEM

6. One Minute Reports

Rohan Hepkins, PATCO, reported that as of this Saturday, December 7, PATCO's new Owl Service is starting. Due to safety concerns the old Owl Service was discontinued and the new Owl Service will operate every hour, with a DRPA police officer on every train. Mr. Hepkins also congratulated Barbara Holcomb, DRPA, on being awarded the BUILD grant she wrote for Franklin Square Station.

Barbara Holcomb, DRPA, reported that DRPA was awarded \$12.58 million for the Franklin Square Station reopening project. There were only two grants awarded by the FTA in Pennsylvania and the DRPA was the recipient of one. Ms. Holcomb thanked Mayor Kenney and the City of Philadelphia as well as Councilman Squilla for his assistance, along with DVRPC for coming out to the press conference. Ms. Holcomb also reported that DRPA received a grant for a safety initiative in the form of an app that they are launching called Look Up Speak Up.

Lou Millan, NJ Transit, reported that they have a similar safety program called 1-888-TIPS-NJT which is NJ Transit's safety hotline.

Elizabeth Smith, SEPTA, reported that it is now official that Leslie Richards will be SEPTA's new General Manager. Secretary Richards' start date is January 6, 2020.

Eric Powers, NJDOT, reported that Congress passed the continuing resolution that gives additional spending authority and eliminates FAST Act rescissions. It was going to

do away with apportionments and it was repealed so now we have the flexibility to fund projects.

Jim Mosca, PennDOT, congratulated Secretary Leslie Richards on her time with PennDOT and on taking over her new position with SEPTA. Mr. Mosca noted that Governor Wolf has nominated Yasmine Gramian as the Acting Secretary of Transportation.

Chris Puchalsky, City of Philadelphia, reported that the city has revitalized the art shelters on Chestnut Street. The original artist has now reinstalled the art at those shelters.

Val Arkoosh, Montgomery County, reported that Lafayette Street has been opened. This has been a multiple year project and has spanned five county administrations. It has a \$90 million price tag. PennDOT has been a great partner in this project and FHWA funded 80 percent of this project. It is the trail junction for Chester Valley Trail and the Schuylkill River Trail and there is an interchange from the turnpike planned as well. There is a lot of interest in the land on Lafayette Street as well because of this development. Ms. Arkoosh congratulated Secretary Richards on her time with PennDOT and congratulated her on her new position with SEPTA.

Mark Remsa, Burlington County, reported that the county has leveraged DVRPC's studies on the Route 130 corridor area, specifically the northern part where there is a lot of industrial growth. The county has completed analysis and is working on a plan that will be used to allocate off-track contributions and off-track developments that developers will have to make. The plan is also for a connector road to this industrial complex.

Peter Rykard, City of Chester, reported that the city and the Riverfront Alliance of Delaware County will be holding a public meeting on December 12 from 5pm-7pm to gather input on the development plan which includes portions of the East Coast Greenway.

Michael Shorr, PA DCED, reported that the CFA authorized \$79 million for 141 projects through DCED's Multimodal fund. Of those selected 35 projects are in our region, totaling \$23 million.

7. Executive Director's Report

a. Healthy Communities Forum

Mr. Seymour reported that on November 20 DVRPC in conjunction with Fit City PHL held a Healthy Communities Forum on the Effects of Neighborhood Change

on Health. Mr. Seymour thanked Commissioner Arkoosh and DVRPC staff for putting the event together.

b. Climate Adaptation Forum

Mr. Seymour called the Board's attention to the Climate Adaptation Forum event held at DVRPC on November 18. Mr. Seymour thanked the City of Philadelphia and the counties for participating to discuss resilience initiatives.

c. Transportation and Climate Initiative

Mr. Seymour noted that about a dozen Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States have participated to create a draft framework for a Transportation and Climate Change Initiative. This is an effort to create a common approach to reduce carbon in transportation fueling and programs through the creation of an auction and cap to reduce those fuels and reinvest them back into transportation improvements. The final draft is due in the Spring of 2020 at which point the states can decide if they want to opt in to this or not. The rule-making and legislation would take place in 2021 and implementation would be in 2022.

d. Franklin Square Station Funding

Mr. Seymour congratulated DRPA on its receipt of a \$12.58 million BUILD grant for the Franklin Square Station reopening.

e. PennDOT SPIKE Funding

Mr. Seymour called the Board's attention to the SPIKE projects table in the Board packets which shows projects outside of the TIP regional decision making process.

f. Regional Bike-Share RFI

Mr. Seymour noted that DVRPC has put out an RFI for operators that are interested in providing regional bike share. We thought it made more sense to do this at scale. The RFIs were due on Monday and we received submissions from four companies. DVRPC will meet with them and then meet with the communities that are interested. More details will follow.

g. NARC Conference

Mr. Seymour reported that he recently attended the NARC Conference which brought together the Executive Directors of MPO's across the nation. Many of them are working on resilience, transportation funding, and affordable housing. There was also a presentation from WAYMO on Google's autonomous vehicle initiative and it was clear that it will take longer than expected to get them up and running due to insurance and legal issues. At the meeting was a handout which

is in the Board packets on US Metro Economies. Mr. Seymour encouraged Board members to take a look.

h. PPTF Meeting

Mr. Seymour called the Board's attention to the upcoming PPTF meeting on December 12 at 6pm. He noted that the PPTF is recruiting new members and encouraged Board members to nominate potential members.

8. Committee Reports

The following committee reports were provided for the Board's review:

- (1) Regional Technical Committee
- (2) Transportation Operations Task Force
- (3) 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 11:58 a.m. on a

MOTION by *Ms. Floyd, seconded by Mr. Mosca.*

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) 592-1800 or email public_affairs@dvrpc.org.

I certify that this is a true and correct copy.

Renee Wise, Recording Secretary