

Board Meeting Minutes

April 25, 2024 | Online Meeting

ATTENDEES & REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

New Jersey Department of Transportation, **Eric Powers**
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, *(not represented)*
New Jersey Governor's Appointee, **Ed Potosnak**
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, **Larry Shifflet**
Pennsylvania Governor's Appointee, **Jonathan Korus**
Pennsylvania Governor's Policy & Planning Office, **Anthony Luker**
Burlington County, **Tom Stanuikynas**
Camden County, *(not represented)*
Gloucester County, **Nick Cressman**
Mercer County, **Leslie Floyd**
Bucks County, **Evan Stone**
Chester County, **Josh Maxwell**
Delaware County, **Gina Burrit**
Montgomery County, **Neil Makhija, Scott France**
City of Camden, **June Morton**
City of Trenton, **Maissel Ferrara**
City of Chester, *(not represented)*
City of Philadelphia, **Chris Puchalsky**

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Federal Highway Administration, New Jersey Division, **Jason Simmons**
Federal Highway Administration, PA 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, **Jody Holton**
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, *(not represented)*
Port Authority Transit Corporation, **Rohan K. Hepkins**
New Jersey Office of Planning Advocacy, **Donna Rendeiro**
Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, **Michael Shorr**

DVRPC CO-COUNSEL

Pennsylvania Co-Counsel: **Jonathan Bloom**
New Jersey Co-Counsel: **Thomas Coleman**

GUESTS

Bucks County, Rich Brahler
Bucks County TMA, Stephen Noll
Burlington County, Carol Thomas
Chester County, Brian O'Leary

Chester County Economic Development Council (CCEDC), Jim Lauckner
Dewberry, Jack Kanarek
Gloucester County, Bill Fleming
Mercer County, Matt Lawson
Mercadian, Matthew Daly
Mercadian, Digesh Patel
Montgomery County, Matt Popek
Montgomery County, Matt Edmond
PennDOT, Kristen Mulkerin
PennDOT, David Alas
PPTF, Richard Linderman
PPTF, Jerrett Johnson
The Partnership TMA, Jacqui Baxter-Rollins
Urban Engineers, Daniella Baer

DVRPC STAFF

Alison Hastings, Alyssa Driscoll, Amy Bernknopf, Ariella Maron, Bill Laidlaw, Betsy Mastaglio, Brett Fusco, Cassidy Boulan, Chris Mulroy, Chris Pollard, Elise Turner, Ethan Fogg, Gina Myers, Glenn McNichol, Gregory Krykewycz, Jacklyn Davis, Jason Crouch, Jesse Buerk, Jonathan Alexander, Karin Morris, Matt Gates, Mike Boyer, Najah Jackson, Patty Elkins, Renee Wise, Richard Murphy, Shawn Megill Legendre, Shoshana Akins, Shoshana Akins, Spencer Gober, Travis Spotts, Van Doan, Wideleine Desir

CALL TO ORDER: CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chair Eric Powers called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Executive Director's Report

- a. *GHG Emissions Target* - The FHWA recently issued new guidance around the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions performance measure, which was set by the FHWA in December 2023 and initially required States and MPOs to submit GHG targets. The new guidance, however, states that States and MPOs are not required to submit initial targets and reports at this time', as a result of federal district court ruling in a case brought by the State of Texas that FHWA is not authorized to regulate GHG emissions. DVRPC continues to be committed to the region's net zero GHG emissions by 2050 Long Range Plan goal, and the Commission is working to develop short and medium term targets and to integrate these into our Long Range Plan and other planning efforts over the next few years. [FHWA Greenhouse Gas Emissions Rulemaking Updates](#)
- b. *Regional Trails Program* - In celebration of Trail Day, April 27, an update was provided on the [Regional Trails program](#). The 10th round of the program is still open thanks to the William Penn Foundation. Currently there is \$2 Million available and municipalities, counties, state agencies and nonprofits are encouraged to apply for awards of up to \$200k, deadline for applications is May 3.
- c. *Releases* - DVRPC's recent publication, [Lower Bucks Freight Access Study](#), was undertaken at the request of Bucks County. This study examines freight generation and patterns and provides recommendations and strategies that support the area's industrial growth centered around the Keystone Trade Center development, while ensuring the safe and efficient movement of both people and goods.
- d. *Meetings* - DVRPC, with support from University City District, is hosting two interactive, in-person workshops on the Intersection of Complete Streets and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (aka CPTED). That event is planned for early June; more to come soon.
- e. *Patty Elkins' Retirement* - After almost 32 years at DVRPC, our Deputy Executive Director, Patty Elkins, is retiring as of June 30, 2024.

Public Comments on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items

There were no public comments submitted prior to the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Meeting Minutes of March 28, 2024

ACTION: Approve minutes of the Board Meeting on March 28, 2024.

MOTION by Mr. Cressman, seconded by Mr. Potosnak. All votes were cast in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

2. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Actions

Rick Murphy, DVRPC, Manager, Office of TIP Development and Maintenance, presented the proposed TIP Actions to the Board. [PRESENTATION](#).

- a. PA23-105: Gov Printz Blvd o/ Conrail (Bridge) (MPMS #92324), Delaware County – Increase CON Phase [Action Item Description](#)

ACTIONS: Approve TIP Action PA23-105, PennDOT's request that DVRPC amend the FY2023 TIP for Pennsylvania by advancing \$12,500,000 (FY29: \$11,574,000 BRIP/Toll Credit, FY30: \$926,000 BRIP/Toll Credit) of the Construction (CON) phase of the Gov Printz Blvd o/ Conrail (Bridge) (MPMS #92324) project from the second four years of the Twelve Year Program (TYP) into the four year TIP (FY23- FY26); increasing the four year TIP CON phase by \$13,500,000; reprogramming the CON phase as follows for a total increase of \$26,000,000 in the four year TIP: FY24: \$14,745,000 BRIP/\$2,300,000 STU/Toll Credit, FY25: \$675,000 STU/Toll Credit, FY26: \$5,255,000 BRIP/\$675,000 STU/Toll Credit, FY28: \$100,000 BRIP/Toll Credit, FY29: \$2,250,000 BRIP/Toll Credit); and removing the FY24 Final Design (FD) phase in the amount of \$2,000,000 BRIP/Toll Credit. The total estimated cost for the CON phase is \$27,000,000.

MOTION by Ms. Burritt, seconded by Mr. Shifflet. All votes were cast in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

- b. PA23-106: Market Street Bridges (3) Over Schuylkill River and CSX Railroad (MSB) (MPMS #69828), City of Philadelphia – Increase Cost Estimate [Action Item Description](#)

ACTIONS: Approve TIP Action PA23-106, PennDOT's request that DVRPC amend the FY2023 TIP for Pennsylvania by increasing the Construction (CON) Phase of the Market Street Bridges (3) Over Schuylkill River and CSX Railroad (MSB) project (MPMS #69828) in the amount of \$23,357,000 (FY25: \$2,708,000 NHPP/\$677,000 State 581, FY31: \$15,978,000 NHPP/\$3,994,000 State 185). Additionally, PennDOT has requested to increase the Utility (UTL) Phase in the amount of \$4,000,000 State 185 and to decrease the Right-of-Way (ROW) Phase in the amount of \$4,000,000 State 185.

MOTION by Mr. Puchalsky, seconded by Mr. Cressman. All votes were cast in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

- c. PA23-107: Safety and Security Improvements (MPMS #107011), SEPTA –Add New Project to the Program [Action Item Description](#)

Jody Holton, SEPTA, noted that these trains will improve our worker safety. A lot of this work is done by hand in our tunnels and the types of debris that are being handled by our workers is not appropriate. A vacuum train would be very helpful to our work conditions. Also the reason why we are procuring four trains is because of the different track gauges on the Broad Street line and the Market Frankford line.

ACTIONS: Approve TIP Action PA23-107, SEPTA's request that DVRPC amend the FY2023 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project, the Vacuum Train Project, to the description of the Safety and Security Improvements program (MPMS #107011).

MOTION by Mr. Puchalsky, seconded by Ms. Morton. All votes were cast in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

- d. NJ24-026: DVRPC Carbon Reduction Program (DB #D2305), Various Counties – Add New Projects to the Program [Action Item Description](#)

ACTIONS: Approve TIP Action NJ24-027, DVRPC Staff's request to amend the FY2024 TIP for New Jersey by adding the South Jersey Port Corporation Equipment Electrification project to the DVRPC Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) (DB #D2305) line item in the amount of \$4,000,000 CR-PHILA.

MOTION by Mr. Potosnak, seconded by Ms. Morton. All votes were cast in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

3. **Request to Open Public Comment Period for Connections 2050: Draft Amendment 3, Draft FY2025 TIP for Pennsylvania, and Conformity Finding of the Plan and TIP**

Ethan Fogg, DVRPC Capital Program Coordinator, presented the following action to the Board. [Action Item Description](#) [PRESENTATION \(slide 16\)](#)

ACTION: Approve staff to open a minimum 30-day public comment period for the purpose of gathering public and agency comments on the Connections 2050 Plan for Greater Philadelphia : Draft Amendment 3, Draft FY2025 TIP for Pennsylvania, and Draft Transportation Conformity Determination Finding of Connections 2050: Amendment 3 and Draft FY2025 TIP for Pennsylvania; to issue proper public notifications; to publish the draft documents on the Internet; to make copies available at certain public libraries; and to hold public meetings.

MOTION by Mr. Cressman, seconded by Ms. Morton. All votes were cast in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

4. **FY25-26 Travel Option Program (TOP) Project Selections**

Stacy Bartels, DVRPC Manager, Office of TDM Strategy and Marketing, presented the following action to the Board. [Action Item Description](#) [PRESENTATION \(slide 21\)](#)

ACTIONS: Approve the list of selected FY25-26 Travel Option Program (TOP) projects totaling \$1,235,600 million which consists of: New Jersey - \$225,000 (\$125K STBG-PHILA, \$100k CMAQ) and Pennsylvania - \$1,010,600 (STU), and approve amending the FY2025 DVRPC UPWP to add \$287,500 to project 25-80-100.

MOTION by Mr. Puchalsky, seconded by Mr. Maxwell. All votes were cast in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

5. **FY2024 Work Program Amendment: FTA Areas of Persistent Poverty Program Grant - Regional Sidewalk Development for Equitable Transit Access**

Greg Krykewycz, DVRPC Director of Transportation Planning, presented the following action to the Board. [Action Item Description](#) [PRESENTATION \(slide 47\)](#)

ACTIONS: Amend the FY24 Unified Planning Work Program to add the FTA Areas of Persistent Poverty Grant - Regional Sidewalk Development for Equitable Transit Access project, as required by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) per FY 2023 Areas of Persistent Poverty program requirements.

MOTION by Ms. Burritt, seconded by Mr. Cressman. All votes were cast in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

6. **FY2024 Work Program Amendment: FTA Areas of Persistent Poverty Program Grant - Erie Avenue Transit First**

Greg Krykewycz, DVRPC Director of Transportation Planning, presented the following action to the Board. [Action Item Description](#) [PRESENTATION \(slide 50\)](#)

ACTIONS: Amend the FY24 Unified Planning Work Program to add the FTA Areas of Persistent Poverty Grant – Erie Avenue Transit First project, as required by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) per FY 2023 Areas of Persistent Poverty program requirements. .

MOTION by Mr. Puchalsky, seconded by Mr. Cressman. All votes were cast in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. One Minute Reports

Ed Potosnak, NJ Governor's Appointee, wished everyone a Happy Earth Day and shared news that Governor Murphy announced the New Jersey Green Bank to help advance the equitable transition to 100% clean electricity. This bank will make investments through debt, credit enhancements, and other financial vehicles to attract private capital and enable the State to reach its climate goals [**\[NJEDA Establishes New Jersey Green Bank to Advance Climate Goals\]**](#)

Leslie Flyod, Mercer County, shared that she is retiring at the end of June and thanked DVRPC for an enjoyable nine years of service. She hopes to attend the June Board meeting with her successor.

Larry Shifflet, PennDOT, notified the Board that the Pennsylvania Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program should have selections out within the week. [**\[Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program Awards\]**](#)

Anthony Luker, PA Governor's Policy & Planning Office, thanked the Board for the opportunity to assist on the Nominating Committee.

Evan Stone, Bucks County, reported that this week, Commissioner Bob Harvie, Bucks County Planning Commission staff and other officials attended the ribbon cutting for the [**\[Bridge Street Crossing\]**](#) of the D&L Trail in Morrisville Borough. This new segment opens the last of the trail blockages associated with the D&L Canal Towpath. The project included two ramps and a street crossing with rectangular rapid flashing beacons. This improvement now creates a more than 75-mile section of uninterrupted trail from Bristol to Easton.

Josh Maxwell, Chester County, announced that a Heritage Tourism plan has been adopted. [**\[Chester County Heritage Tourism Plan\]**](#)

Scott France, Montgomery County, shared that Montgomery County is working on a hydro power generating dam on the Schuylkill River in Norristown. The County submitted an application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to pursue a permit exemption to build and operate a hydro power facility that would generate up to 10 megawatts of electricity, enough to power the full county campus facilities in North Town and the new justice center opening next year. This will be a new renewable energy source that contributes to sustainability in the region. The project kicks off with a public meeting on June 5. [**\[Montgomery County to study potential of Norristown Dam for hydro-electric power\]**](#)

Christopher Pulchalsky, City of Philadelphia, highlighted Mayor Parker's choice of SEPTA as her transportation to an event in North East Philadelphia. This event was in celebration of her first 100 days as mayor and using SEPTA showed her commitment to public transit as part of a safer, cleaner, greener Philadelphia, with economic opportunity for all. He also noted that Indego, Philadelphia's bike share program, recently celebrated its ninth year in operation; to date, Indigo has provided over 7 million rides, and the ridership to grow. March 2024 ridership was around 80,000 trips, which is around 30% higher than March 2023. He thanked DVRPC for their support over the years, specifically Greg Krykewycz.

Jody Holton, SEPTA, reported that this week SEPTA released its Sustainability Playbook, with details on how the agency is reducing its GHG footprint from now until 2030, and it highlights past successes. SEPTA also officially retired the last diesel bus in their fleet and welcomed the first pilot hydrogen fuel cell bus. SEPTA also released its Draft Proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Operating & Capital Budgets: Safe, Clean & Secure. The operating budget assumes the Governor's budget proposal passes. This budget signifies a significant investment in safety and security on the system as it more than double spending on clean and safe initiatives compared to 2022.

Louis Millan, NJ Transit, raised awareness of the FIFA World Cup coming in 2026. He noted that accommodating the increase of ridership during that time will need coordination.

Michael Shorr, PA DCED, reminded the Board that the Act 13 Programs are open, specifically highlighting the Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program, close at the end of May and the CFA multimodal transportation program is open through the end of July. [\[Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program \(GTRP\)\]](#) [\[Multimodal Transportation Fund\]](#)

8. **Committee Reports**

- a. [Regional Technical Committee](#)
- b. [Information Resource Exchange Group](#)
- c. [Public Participation Task Force](#)

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

ACTION: *Adjourn the Board meeting at 11:20 and move into the Executive Session.*

MOTION *by Mr. Maxwell, seconded by Ms. Shifflet. Motion passed. All votes were cast in favor of the motion.*