

Board Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2024 | Online Meeting

ATTENDEES & REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, **David Alas**
Pennsylvania Governor's Policy & Planning Office, **Anthony Luker**
Pennsylvania Governor's Appointee, *(not represented)*
New Jersey Department of Transportation, **Eric Powers**
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, **Keith Henderson**
New Jersey Governor's Appointee, **Laura Wilton**
Bucks County, **Robert Harvie**
Chester County, **Josh Maxwell**
Delaware County, **Christine Reuther**
Montgomery County, **Scott France, Matt Edmond**
Burlington County, **Tom Stanuikynas**
Camden County, **Ilene Lampitt**
Gloucester County, **Nick Cressman**
Mercer County, **Matt Lawson**
City of Camden, **June Morton**
City of Trenton, **Lisa Seriessyol**
City of Chester, **Paul Fritz**
City of Philadelphia, **Chris Puchalsky, Martine Decamp**

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

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

DVRPC CO-COUNSEL

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

GUESTS

Bucks County, Richard Brahler
Bucks County, Evan Stone
Burlington County, Carol Thomas
Chester County, Brian O'Leary

Chester County, Brian Styche
City of Philadelphia, Lily Reynolds
DRPA, Jalila Parker
Delaware County, Gina Burrit
Dewberry, Jack Kanarek
Federal Highway Administration, NJ, Robert Clark
Gloucester County, Jackie Huston
Gloucester County, Bill Flemming
Gloucester County, Emily McGrath
Hopeworks, Aaron Torres
Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA), Tylin Colston
PPTF Judith Fagin
PPTF, Patricia Kidd
NJDOT, Megan Fackler
NARC, Erich Zimmerman
SJTPO, David Heller
SJTPO, Jacob Cummings
STV, Dan Hutton
Urban Engineers, Daniella Baer

DVRPC STAFF

Alison Hastings, Alyson Dressman, Alyssa Driscoll, Amy Bernknopf, Amy Verbofsky, Ariella Maron, Betsy Mastaglio, Brett Fusco, Derek Lombardi, Elise Turner, Ethan Fogg, Glenn McNichol, Gregory Krykewycz, Jaclyn Davis, Jason Crouch, Karen Cilurso, Karin Morris, Kristen Scudder, Maggie Nemetz, Mike Boyer, Najah Jackson, Neve Zhang, Renee Wise, Shawn Megill Legendre, Shoshana Akins, Spencer Gober, Stewart Tillyer, Tom Edinger, Travis Spotts, Vanessa Doan

CALL TO ORDER: CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chair Josh Maxwell called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Executive Director's Report

- a. *UPWP* - DVRPC received 41 proposals for the FY'26 Work Program. The DVRPC Board and RTC members will discuss the proposals as a group on October 8.
- b. *IJA Updates*- DVRPC was awarded \$1.52 million in Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) 2024 funding, along with Mercer County, Lower Merion Twp., the City of Philadelphia, and Burlington County. The City of Philadelphia received funding from the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Program to create an EV charging hub at the Philadelphia International Airport and to support the installation of EV chargers in underserved Philadelphia neighborhoods. DVRPC partnered with the City on a collaborative, regional application for the next round of funding. DVRPC completed the regional Carbon Reduction Program Funding Strategy and held a webinar to share the opportunities with regional partners, municipalities, and other stakeholders. A number of open Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) are available on the DVRPC website. [\[DVRPC SS4A Grant\]](#) [\[DVRPC IJA Webpage\]](#) [\[Key Notices of Funding Opportunities\]](#)
- c. *Long Range Plan* - After a year-long public engagement process, the draft vision and goals for *Update: Connections 2050*, DVRPC region's long-range plan update to be adopted in late 2025, is available on the DVRPC website. [\[Update: Connections 2050\]](#)
- d. *Events* - Healthy Communities Task Force meeting is holding a joint meeting with the Transportation Operations Task Force to explore the regional impact of hospital closures in our region on Tuesday, October 15. [\[Healthy Communities Task Force\]](#) [\[Transportation Operations Task Force\]](#)
- e. *Products* - Ariella Maron shared an overview on a set of recent publications that are all available on the DVRPC website: - [\[Freight Futures\]](#) [\[PhillyFreightFinder\]](#) [\[Community Engagement Activities Summary for Our Streets: A Trenton Bike Plan for All\]](#) [\[Trenton Trails Plan\]](#)

Public Comments on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items

No public comments were received.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Meeting Minutes of July 25, 2024

ACTION: Approve minutes of the Board Meeting on July 25, 2024.

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

2. CMAQ Performance Measures – Interim Performance Plan

Brett Fusco, DVRPC, Associate Director, Comprehensive Planning, presented the following action to the Board. [Action Item Description PRESENTATION \(slide 1\)](#).

ACTION: Adopt the CMAQ Interim Performance Plan and authorize submission of the report to the Pennsylvania and New Jersey Departments of Transportation.

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

3. FY 2024 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Karen Cilurso, DVRPC, Associate Director, Livable Communities, presented the following action to the Board. [Action Item Description PRESENTATION \(slide 21\)](#)

Board Discussion: Matt Edmond asked how the goals were chosen, and Ms. Cilurso explained that the goals were based on the outcomes of analysis and discussion. They were first drafted by DVRPC staff and then discussed and refined with the CEDS Committee. The goals also align with what we heard through the Long Range Plan survey results pertaining to the economy.

ACTION: Adopt the FY 2024 CEDS and allow staff to continue to administer the role as the Economic Development District, as per guidance set forth by the U.S. EDA, by passing Resolution Number B-FY25-005.

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

PRESENTATION ITEM

4. IIJA Reauthorization Update from Erich Zimmerman

Erich Zimmerman, Executive Director, National Association of Regional Councils, provided an update on the IIJA reauthorization process. [PRESENTATION \(slide 43\)](#)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. One Minute Reports

David Alas, PennDOT, updated the Board that the Pennsylvania State TIP is expected to be approved by the end of September. He thanked DVRPC's TIP team for their work.

Anthony Luker, Governor's Appointee, mentioned the Governor's Budget for FY 2025, which reflected the Governor's economic development priorities.

Christine Reuther, Delaware County, welcomed Paul Fritz, the new Director of Planning and Zoning for the City of Chester, to the Board. Delaware County is moving forward with the PA DEP Air Quality Monitoring Plan, in cooperation with with six municipalities.

Matt Edmond, Montgomery County, reported that Montgomery County is submitting a proposal for the second round of HUD's Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing Program. The County's proposal submitted is to fund a countywide housing needs assessment and to create a sub grant

program so that willing municipalities can create housing plans and address their own municipal zoning challenges. [\[Housing and Urban Development Grants\]](#)

Martine Decamp, City of Philadelphia, shared that the City received \$1.55 million from Innovative Finance and Asset Concession Grant program to explore Public-Private Partnerships (P3's). She also reported that Mayor Parker announced support for the proposed Sixers arena, and the City is working diligently to increase the public transit mode share for travel to the arena.

Paul Fritz, Chester City, introduced himself to the Board.

Eric Powers, NJDOT, reported that NJDOT closed the books on the federal fiscal year. The State utilized all \$1.8 billion in Federal funds that came through Federal Highway. Mr. Powers also spoke about the long range transportation plan and encouraged everyone to look into the section that focuses on community engagement. Finally he mentioned a press release for the new Public Safety Awareness program that the New Jersey Governor and Commissioner put out. [\[NJDOT Long Range Transportation Plan\]](#) [\[NJ Public Safety Awareness Campaign\]](#)

Tom Stanuikynas, Burlington County, thanked DVRPC Staff for participating in the New Jersey County Planners Association's joint meeting with the New Jersey County Engineers last week in Monmouth County.

Nick Cressman, Gloucester County, thanked DVRPC for support with the RFP process for Dinosaur Trail and other Local Concept Development studies. [\[Dinosaur Trail update via Circuit Trails\]](#)

Matt Lawson, Mercer County, shared that the County recently received a Safe Streets For All (SS4A) grant and a special discretionary grant from NJDOT for a mobility and transportation innovation program. This grant will support Isles Incorporated to expand its operation outside of Trenton.

Lisa Seriessyol, City of Trenton, introduced herself to the Board and thanked DVRPC for its support.

Jody Holton, SEPTA, updated the Board on SEPTA's continuing budget concerns. The agency is working to find a legislative solution from the State to cover the funding gap for Fiscal Year 2025 and recurring gaps. SEPTA announced a proposed fare increase to fares for cash and Travel Wallet from \$2 to \$2.50, which will increase revenues by \$14 million. The SEPTA Board will vote on the proposed fare adjustment during their November Board meeting. Ms. Holton also reported that the first half of 2024 saw a 37% decrease in crime. This is in part due to SEPTA hiring 40 more safety officers and over 100 more cleaners than in previous years. In August, SEPTA saw the highest month of ridership recovery, and in September, SEPTA increased its Regional Rail service. [\[Ridership Increase Report\]](#)

Rohan Hepkins, PATCO, updated the Board on the timing for the Franklin Square opening, which is now expected to open in December.

Darlene Callands, DRPA, spoke about the increase in tolls. This is the first increase in 13 years. [\[DRPA Toll Increase Press Release\]](#)

Donna Rendeiro, NJOPA, discussed the Beta site for the New Jersey Smart Growth Explorer. This tool gathers data from different Federal and State sources, identifies and weighs environmental factors and developmental factors, and then identifies where the best places in New Jersey are to either develop, redevelop, or conserve projects. This site is still in Beta form and Ms. Rendeiro encouraged people to use the tool and provide feedback for improvement. [\[New Jersey State Smarth Growth Explorer\]](#)

6. Committee Reports

- a. [Regional Technical Committee](#)
- b. [Regional Safety Task Force](#)

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

***ACTION:** Adjourn the Board meeting at 11:52 am and move into the Executive Session.*

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