

Board Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2025 | Online Meeting

ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS AND VOTING ALTERNATES

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, **David Alas**
Pennsylvania Governor's Policy & Planning Office, **Anthony Luker**
New Jersey Department of Transportation, **Eric Powers**
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, **Keith Henderson**
New Jersey Governor's Appointee **Michael Eleneski, Ed Potosnack**
Bucks County, **Evan Stone, Bob Harvie**
Chester County, **Matt Edmond**
Delaware County, **Christine Reuther**
Montgomery County, **Scott France, Neil Makhija**
Burlington County, **Tom Stanuikynas**
Camden County, *(not represented)*
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**

NON-VOTING REPRESENTATIVES TO THE COMMISSION

Federal Highway Administration, New Jersey Division, **Jason Simmons**
Federal Highway Administration, PA Pennsylvania Division, *(not represented)*
Federal Highway Administration, *(not represented)*
Federal Transit Administration, *(2 seats, not represented)*
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *(3 seats, not represented)*
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *(2 seats, not represented)*
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, *(not represented)*
New Jersey Office of Planning Advocacy, *(not represented)*
Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, **Michael Shorr**
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, **Patrick Patterson**
Delaware River Port Authority, **Darlene Callands**
New Jersey Transit Corporation, **Megan Massey**
Port Authority Transit Corporation, *(not represented)*
Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, **Jody Holton**

DVRPC CO-COUNSEL

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

1. Call to Order, Chair's Comments, Roll Call

Vice Chair Ed Potosnak called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Executive Director Maron called roll and confirmed quorum.

2. Public Comments on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items

No public comments were made at this meeting. Written public comments can be found [here](#).

3. Executive Director's Report

Federal policy changes have impacted the approval process for TIP actions. While an updated eSTIP package was successfully resubmitted after FHWA-PA required the removal of two Philadelphia-based projects, a new USDOT directive now mandates that all STIP amendments undergo review by the Office of General Counsel at USDOT Headquarters, potentially causing project delays. DVRPC continues to monitor and communicate these changes to Board members. On a positive note, CPRG funding is no longer frozen.

At the state level, both Pennsylvania and New Jersey Governors have included significant increases in transportation funding in their FY 2026 state budget proposals, aligning with regional priorities for enhanced public transit and infrastructure investment. Of particular note, PA Governor Shapiro's budget included an additional \$292.5 million for public transit as well as increased funding to PennDOT for roads and bridges. DVRPC and SEPTA board members held a joint meeting this morning to discuss this budget proposal and other key legislative priorities for the region, including local funding options.

In other DVRPC News, several new members have joined the Public Participation Task Force, and will serve as representatives and community liaisons throughout 2025. DVRPC also released the Freight Futures report, providing a proactive approach to mitigating risks and capitalizing on emerging opportunities of an evolving global supply chain.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2025

ACTION: Approve minutes of the Board Meeting on January 23, 2025.

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

5. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Actions

Jesse Buerk, DVRPC, Associate Director, Office of Capital Programs and Project Development, presented the item to the Board. [DVRPC Board Meeting February 2025 \(Slide 1\)](#)

- a. PA25-036: US 30 Sinkhole Remediation 2024 (MPMS #104807), Chester County – Add New Project to the TIP. [Action Item Description](#)

ACTION: Approve TIP Action PA25-036, PennDOT's request that DVRPC amend the FY2025 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP, the US 30 Sinkhole Remediation project (MPMS #104807) in the amount of \$5,000,000 PROTECT (PRTCT) for the Construction (CON) Phase in FY25. These are additional funds to the region.

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

- b. PA25-037: Bondsville Road Retaining Wall (MPMS #120062), Chester County – Add New Project to the TIP [Action Item Description](#)

ACTION: Approve TIP Action PA25-037, PennDOT's request that DVRPC amend the FY2025 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project to the TIP, the Bondsville Road Retaining Wall project (MPMS #120062) in the amount of \$650,000 PROTECT (PRTCT) for the Preliminary Engineering (PE) Phase in FY25. These are additional funds to the region.

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

- c. PA25-038: Transit and Regional Station Program (MPMS #77183), SEPTA – Add New Project to the Program [Action Item Description](#) [\[Public Comment\]](#)

ACTION: Approve TIP Action PA25-038, SEPTA's request that DVRPC amend the FY2025 TIP for Pennsylvania by adding a new project, the Improving SEPTA's Accessibility using General

Transit Feed Specification (GTFS)-Pathways project, to the Transit and Regional Rail Station Program (MPMS #77183) in the amount of \$634,000 SMART for the Engineering/Right-of-Way/Construction (ERC) Phase in FY25.

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

- d. NJ24-086: PATCO Rail Replacement - Ferry Avenue to Broadway (DB #DR2008), DRPA/PATCO – Add Project Back into the TIP [Action Item Description](#)

ACTION: Approve IP Action NJ24-086, DRPA/PATCO's request that DVRPC amend the FY2024 TIP for New Jersey by adding the PATCO Rail Replacement - Ferry Avenue to Broadway (DB #DR2008) project back into the TIP for Engineering/Construction (EC) in the amount of \$2.587 M (\$2.07 M SECT 5337/\$0.517 DRPA) in FY25, using FY22 and FY23 prior year unobligated funding.

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. Update Connections 2050: Funding Allocation

Jackie Davis DVRPC, Manager, Office of Long-Range Planning, presented the item to the Board. [DVRPC Board Meeting February 2025 \(Slide 15\)](#)

7. One Minute Reports

David Alas, PennDOT, voiced appreciation for partnerships while things are uncertain in DC. He announced that the General and Procedural Guidance work group and the Financial Guidance work group would be starting in the next few months. He expressed gratitude for DVRPC's past participation in groups like these.

Anthony Luker, PA Governor's Policy Office, highlighted several aspects of Governor Shapiro's budget proposal for FY 2026. This budget aims to keep mass transit running across the Commonwealth and deliver more funding for roads and bridges, especially in rural communities. He also highlighted the fact that the budget proposal includes a plan to tax skill games and use that revenue to fund public transit.

Evan Stone, Bucks County, shared that the ground breaking for Core Creek Park would take place on April 26, Celebrate Trails Day, at 11am. [Event info](#)

Christine Reuther, Delaware County, announced that federal funding for a few of the county's safety projects has been frozen. These projects include a road diet on Route 291 and a Safe Routes to Schools project. She is hopeful that the funding will be accessible soon, particularly given the importance of these projects' safety improvements, economic development support, and community benefits. Commissioner Reuther also shared that the county council voted to adopt the Delaware County Vision Zero Plan, designed specifically to work in collaboration with DVRPC's Vision Zero Plan. She noted that some of the safety ambassadors funded through this work, who are no longer being compensated for their time, are still engaged in this work, demonstrating the value of outreach projects such as this one in developing deep community investment in roadway safety. [Vision Zero Delco Portal](#)

Scott France, Montgomery County, commented that Montgomery County is also dealing with some frozen federal funding, specifically for a Safe Roads and Streets for All grant, but remains hopeful that they will become accessible soon. He also promoted the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia's three-part event series on housing supply across the region and identifying challenges that workers have in affording homes near quality jobs. The first event is on March 25, focused on innovations, products, and partnerships to advance workforce housing. Anne Levitt-Gruberger from the Montgomery County Planning Commission is serving on an event panel.

Paul Fritz, City of Chester, thanked DVRPC staff for their assistance with the Moore Program Grant.

Chris Puchalsky, City of Philadelphia, reported that last week Mayor Parker signed an executive order on housing assistance, which is focused on creating or preserving 30,000 units of new and existing housing and serving the needs of Philadelphia residents, including low wage workers, underemployed or unemployed residents, municipal and union workers, veterans, individuals with disabilities, domestic violence, survivors, and other Philadelphians. [\[Mayor Parker Signs Housing Opportunities Made Easy Initiative Executive Order\]](#)

Eric Powers, NJDOT, expressed gratitude for the relationship between DVRPC, NJDOT, and the other MPOs in New Jersey through this period of uncertainty. Mr. Powers expressed that the group at DVRPC in particular is well positioned for success while everyone works to navigate any changes and works towards positive outcomes for the region.

Ed Potosnak, New Jersey Governor's Appointee, shared that Governor Murphy delivered his final budget address, outlining a \$58 billion fiscal year 2026 budget, including a \$6.3 billion surplus, with 74% allocated to grants and aid for property tax relief, social services, education, and municipal support. The budget includes a \$7.2 billion full pension payment, which would have been significantly lower if prior administrations had met their obligations, allowing for greater investments in long-term infrastructure and public programs. Additionally, the budget allocates over \$1.23 billion for highway and bridge projects and \$767 million for NJ Transit capital improvements, contributing to significant upgrades in road and bridge conditions since 2018.

Matt Lawson, Mercer County, reported that Mercer County is also waiting to hear from FHWA about a Safe Streets and Roads for All grant award contract. County Executive Dan Benson has asked the planning department to partner with the Greater Mercer TMA to create a Mercer County-focused transportation conference, tentatively scheduled for May 28.

Lisa Serieyssol, City of Trenton, reported that a second public information meeting was held on a TCDI project happening in conjunction with Mercer County for the Johnson Trolley Trail.

Jody Holton, SEPTA, reported that SEPTA moved over 400,000 people during the Eagles Super Bowl LIX Parade. She thanked every employee and staff member who was involved in making that a success. With more events coming up in the next year, she is hopeful that Governor Shapiro's budget will pass to help support SEPTA in serving those events. She also reported that crime is down 30% over the last year, and the agency is receiving good feedback from new cleaning services. Holton shared that SEPTA will continue to move forward austerity measures that are helping the agency save money, including wage freezes for management, hiring freezes, travel restrictions, and other measures, but noted that these efforts will not fill the \$213 million structural budget that the agency is facing. SEPTA's FY26 budget, which is expected to be released in March, will reflect the current funding situation, not the Governor's proposal.

Megan Massey, NJTransit, thanked DVRPC for the TCDI grant opportunity. NJTransit has been working closely with Pensauken and working off of DVRPC's 2013 work for the township to advance transit oriented development (TOD) around the Pensauken Transit Center Station. They are looking at three other potential sites for transit oriented development, which are owned either by Camden County or by Pensauken. The final report will be released soon.

Darlene Callands, DRPA, reported that PATCO was able to move over 60,000 people for the Eagles parade. They also are deploying new intern opportunities and are excited to welcome students for the summer.

Jason Simmons, FHWA, assured the Board that changes are being communicated as they come into FHWA and offered for counties with questions to reach out directly.

Michael Shorr, PA DCED, shared that the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) reviewed the 2024 DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund applications and approved 223 projects totaling over \$87 million in funds statewide. That program will reopen on March 1, and will accept applications through July 31. The Act 13 programs, which includes the Greenways Trails and Recreation Program, are accepting applications through May 31, and the PA Small Water and Sewer Program is also now accepting applications through April 30.

8. Committee Reports

- a. [Regional Technical Committee](#)

- b. [Delaware Valley Goods Movement Task Force](#)
- c. [Regional Safety Task Force](#)
Kevin Murphy, DVRPC, Senior Manager, Office of Safe Streets, presented the item to the board. [DVRPC Board Meeting February 2025 \(Slide 28\)](#)
- d. [Public Participation Task Force](#)

9. Old Business

None

10. New Business

None

11. Adjournment

***ACTION:** Adjourn the Board meeting at 11:07 am and move into the Executive Committee.*

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