

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**  
**RELATED TO DVRPC BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

**July 25, 2024**

**2f. Communication, Signals, & Technology Improvements (MPMS #102571), SEPTA**

**From:** Jay Arzu

**Zip Code:** 19146

**Date Received:** 7/15/24

**Comment/Question:** This is a project that is much needed and will help us get closer to the major renovation of City Hall Station. 🙏

**Response:** Thank you for your comment. Your comment was forwarded to the DVRPC Board, DVRPC's Office of the Capital Programs, and SEPTA. Your support is appreciated.

**10. DVRPC FY2025 Work Program Amendment: Bellwether District Transit & Traffic Forecasts**

**From:** Jerrett Johnson

**Zip Code:** 19139

**Date Received:** 7/15/24

**Comment/Question:** I am happy that the Bellwether District is moving forward. I have been riding by the area and seeing the first building being constructed. I was wondering if the Benzene levels from the former PES plant have been destroyed.

**Response:** Thank you for your comment. Your comment was forwarded to the DVRPC Board, DVRPC's Office of Transportation Studies, Philadelphia City, and PA DEP. Your support is appreciated.

This work program amendment will provide traffic and transit forecasts for the Bellwether District; it does not include any environmental assessments or analysis. DVRPC does not analyze, estimate, or forecast benzene concentrations in the region.

The redevelopment of this site is included in DVRPC's Air Quality Conformity

Demonstration (<https://www.dvrpc.org/airquality/conformity/>) for ground level ozone and fine particulates. However, benzene is not subject to transportation conformity and benzene emissions from the Bellwether District site would be considered a “stationary” source. Information regarding EPA’s benzene regulations are available here: <https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/benzene-neshap-faq-handbook>

According to Hilco Redevelopment Partners, “Beginning in 2018, benzene monitoring was conducted at the perimeter of the property as required by the Petroleum Refinery Sector Rule.... Benzene concentrations measured at the perimeter of the property are consistent with typical benzene concentrations measured in urban areas, like Philadelphia.” Results of the monitoring are available here: <https://www.thebellwetherdistrict.com/community/>. Additionally, Evergreen maintains a website with information on the site’s cleanup, which includes benzene levels: <https://phillyrefinerycleanup.info/>.

**Public comments on agenda and non-agenda items received at the DVRPC Board Meeting held on July 25, 2024**

**5. Adoption of the DVRPC FY2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Pennsylvania (FY25-FY28)**

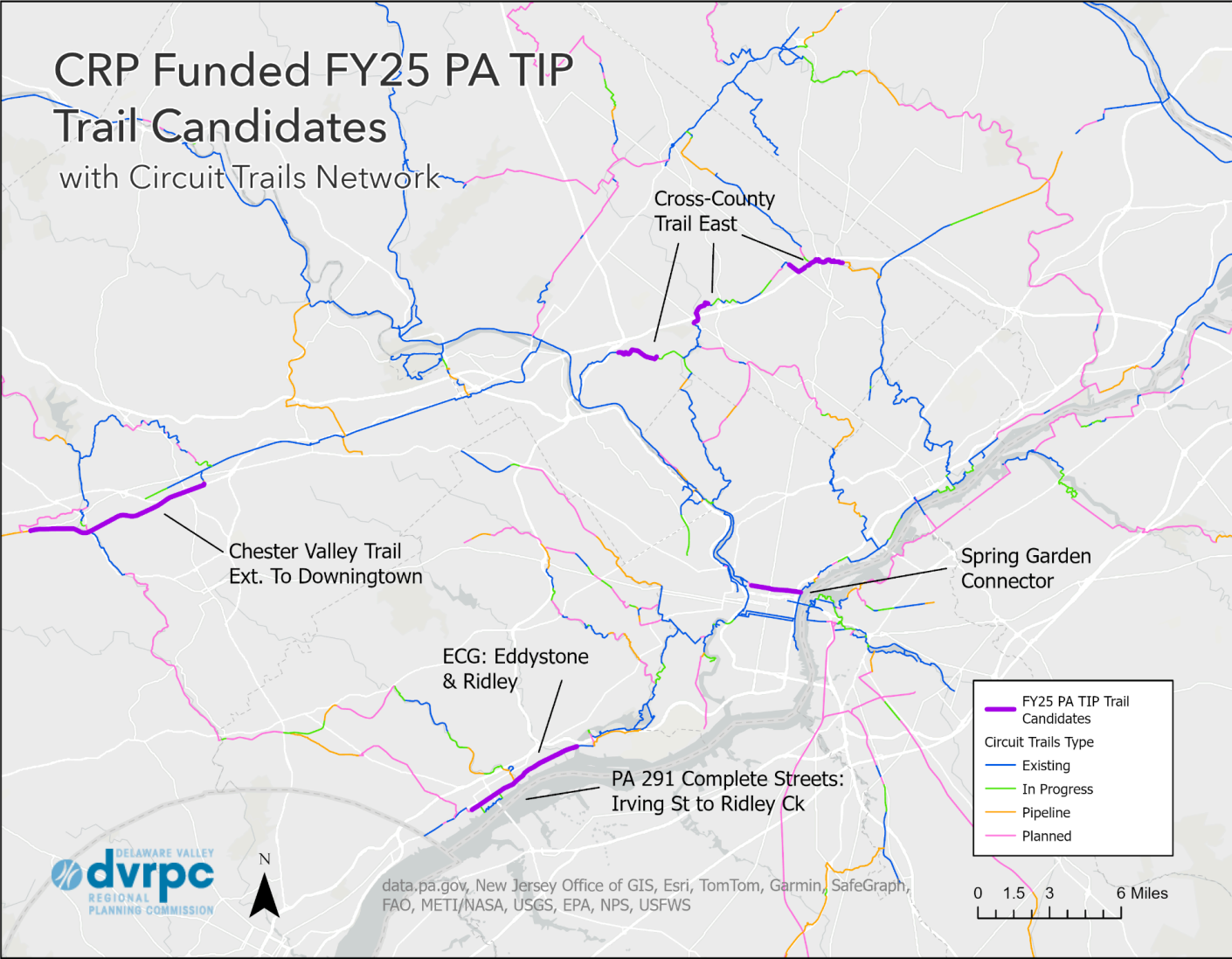
**From:** Patrick Starr

**Date Received:** 7/25/24

[See attached talking points and map.]

**Response:** Thank you for your comment.

# CRP Funded FY25 PA TIP Trail Candidates with Circuit Trails Network





## PA TIP DVRPC COMMENTS

### On Behalf of the Circuit Trails Coalition

July 25, 2024

- Good morning! I'm Patrick Starr, EVP PA Environmental Council, which advances access to outdoor recreation, natural resources, and active transportation across the Commonwealth.
- I serve as the Chair of the Circuit Trails Coalition, a network of 60 organizations that collaborates with DVRPC, county, and state agencies to develop the Circuit Trails network, part of our region's Long Range Transportation Plan.
- **I'm here to thank DVRPC for committing \$200 M in the PA TIP, including \$120 M from the Carbon Reduction Program, to building out Circuit Trails.**
- This landmark investment in Pennsylvania Circuit Trails advances active, non-carbon generating, multi-purpose transportation alternatives, a key objective of the Carbon Reduction Program.
- In plain language, that means miles of comfortable, low-stress, connected routes for walking and biking trips, reducing your constituents' reliance on personal vehicles and shrinking the region's greenhouse gas emissions.
- And while the use of Carbon Reduction funds for trail projects isn't unique nationally, Rails to Trails Conservancy reports that this is by far the greatest investment by an MPO - serving as a national model!
- In the PA TIP amendment you will approve this morning, there are four multi-purpose **trail corridors** included in this historic investment: The Spring Garden Street Greenway, the Cross County Trail, the Chester Valley Trail, and the East Coast Greenway paralleling Route 291.

- **This part is a game-changer.**
- By listing and funding **entire trail corridors**, PA's member agencies will now be able to draw down funds as needed for specific stages in the trail design and construction process – just like how highways and roads are built.
- For too long active transportation projects have been funded one small step – and one grant proposal – at a time, prolonging completion, driving up costs to taxpayers, and frustrating trail users.
- I commend particularly members of the DVRPC board for their leadership – Commissioner's Harvie, Maxwell, and Makhija, and Councilmembers Reuther and Squilla for their vision.
- This investment in the PA TIP demonstrates commitment to active transportation, to offering constituents the choice to get around without a car, and to reducing carbon emissions.
- On behalf of the entire Circuit Trails Coalition and the more than 500 individuals who commented to DVRPC in support of this PA TIP action, I say thank you!!
- I look forward to a similar demonstration of commitment in the New Jersey TIP.