

## QUARTERLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

**10 AM | October 17, 2024**

8th Floor, American College of Physicians Building | DVRPC Main Conference Room

190 N Independence Mall West, Philadelphia, PA 19106-1520

### 1. Call to Order

**Ariella Maron, Executive Director of DVRPC**, welcomed everyone and gave remarks about the variety of topics to be discussed during the meeting and their connection to the recently updated Long Range Planning goals. Attendees were invited to go around the room and introduce themselves.

### 2. NJDOT Truck Parking Survey Results

**Janice Marino-Doyle, NJDOT** presented the preliminary results from an NJDOT conducted Truck Parking Survey done in Spring 2024 to understand the needs of truck drivers and the freight community. The effort is part of a wider truck parking study currently being undertaken by NJDOT. Janice outlined the process the agency has taken so far in identifying the issues related to truck parking in NJ. They began by studying best practices, evaluating truck parking demand, and interviewing stakeholders. In addition, they sent surveys to individual drivers, the majority of which were owner-operators, to identify the issues affecting the average driver. Conditions for truck parking in the state were rated poor/very poor by most respondents. Drivers pointed to the need for more staging and overnight parking, especially in Northern NJ. Very few expressed interest in paid parking options. NJDOT will continue the planning process by identifying areas of focus and recommendations for adequate truck parking provision.

### 3. Regional Comprehensive Climate Action Plan Input

**Lauren Pawlowski, DVRPC** presented on the ongoing progress of the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) being undertaken by DVRPC's Office of Sustainable Energy. The effort includes a steering committee made up of representatives and organizations from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, as well as Delaware and Maryland. The primary goal of the CCAP is an economy-wide achievement of net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050. Lauren asked the group for feedback on the issues and possible actions to be taken regarding three different sectors of the economy related to freight (transportation, manufacturing, and oil/gas energy). A robust feedback session was had with much of the conversation centering around the issues, concerns, and current efforts to reduce GHG emissions in the transportation sector.

### 4. PhilaPort Strategic Plan

**Lindsay Young, PhilaPort**, shared PhilaPort's recently released strategic plan, *Destination 2040*. *Destination 2040* provides a roadmap that charts the course for the Port's future with a commitment to growth, sustainability, and prosperity for the region. Lindsay outlined the different improvements planned for three sections of the port: the Northern, Central, and Southern sections. Major expansions of port operations are planned for the Southern section, including the rerouting of S Columbus Boulevard in order to expand container-yard space. Warehouse construction is planned for both the Northern and Central sections of the port. Another consideration for PhilaPort is the inclusion of cruise operations, most likely in the southern section of the port. These services are expected to use temporary accommodation by 2026 with a more permanent terminal coming in later years. Lindsay also mentioned the port is exploring increasing the depth of the channel to 50 feet to maintain PhilaPort's competitiveness with other ports in the U.S.

### 5. Two-minute Reports

The following Task Force and Subcommittee chairs and Task Force members provided updates on the activities of their companies and agencies:

**John McCreavy .....NJRRRA**

John shared information about the recently held NJRRRA event, *The Railroad Construction Basics Seminar*, that took place on Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at The Railroad Group, LLC office at 705 Mantua Ave., Paulsboro, NJ 08066. The seminar provided an educational overview of the railroad industry and enabled all attendees to improve their understanding of how freight is an integral component of keeping American industries connected. Over 125 people were in attendance. John also mentioned some recent emergency preparedness exercises were undertaken by the railroads alongside an additional 200+ police and EMT departments across the state. Lastly, he noted that the December meeting of the NJRRRA will be held in Camden, NJ at South Jersey Port Corporation’s headquarters.

**Matthew Long ..... PennDOT**

Matthew Long gave a brief update on the evolving work of PennDOT’s freight work group including updating their scope as well as data collection and management practices.

**Claire Wolgast ..... DVRPC**

Claire Wolgast shared information on the Reducing Industrial Sector Emissions in Pennsylvania (RISE PA) program, which is a \$396 million grant program for small, medium, and large industrial operators to reduce their greenhouse gas emission as well as other pollutants. The application process will begin in early 2025. More information can be found [here](#).

### 6. Old or New Business/Adjournment

The next meeting of the Goods Movement Task Force is tentatively set to be held on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 10am. The meeting was adjourned.

*Any modifications or corrections to these highlights can be transmitted to DVRPC’s Kristen Scudder (kscudder@dvrpc.org).*

#### Meeting Participants

| <u>Name</u>          | <u>Affiliation</u>                           |
|----------------------|--|
| Boyer, Michael       | Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission |
| Chiaromonte, Stephen | WSP  |
| Clark, Rickie        | Federal Highway Administration               |
| Cummings, Jacob      | SJTPO  |
| Fagin, Judith        | Judith E. Fagin, PMP                         |
| Farina, Dan          | Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission |
| Fusco, Brett         | Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission |
| Gallagher, Kevin     | Kevin Gallagher Consulting                   |
| Gates, Matt          | Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission |
| Lienau, Torsten      | Jacobs Engineering                           |
| Long, Matthew        | PennDOT                                      |
| Maddox, Nicole       | PHL  |
| Marino-Doyle, Janice | NJDOT  |
| Maron, Ariella       | Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission |
| McCreavy, John       | SMS Rail                                     |
| Miller, Jim          | Michael Baker                                |
| Norbut, Jason        | Penn Terminals                               |
| Pawlowski, Lauren    | Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission |

| <b><u>Name</u></b>    | <b><u>Affiliation</u></b>                    |
|-----------------------|--|
| Piper, Valerie        | PhilaPort                                    |
| Sankaran, Alex        | Chester County Planning Commission           |
| Scott, Michael        | WSP  |
| Scudder, Kristen      | Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission |
| Sendel-Grant, Laureen | Montgomery County Planning Commission        |
| Shelly, Lee           | H&K Group, Inc.                              |
| Stanuikynas, Tom      | Burlington County                            |
| Ward, John            | Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission |
| Wardwell, Todd        | USCG Sector Delaware Bay                     |
| Wolgast, Claire       | Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission |
| Young, Lindsay        | PhilaPort                                    |