

**MEETING MINUTES
OF THE DVRPC REGIONAL CITIZENS COMMITTEE
JANUARY 13, 1998**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

RCC members had a number of corrections to the minutes of the December 16, 1997 meeting, including: Claudia Crane was present and should be included on the attendance list; Illy Sobel's presentation on auto trends should include the following statement -- "Manufacturers are producing and aggressively selling larger and heavier vehicles (minivans, small trucks and four wheel drives) which do not have to meet 'CAFE' standards of at least 27 MPG. This negativity impacts congestion and air quality."

Linda Ingenthron stated that there was no opportunity to abstain from the vote for RCC Chair in December, so some members simply did not turn in a ballot. Therefore, the election of the Chair was by majority; it was not a unanimous decision, as noted in the minutes. Ms. Ingenthron also objected to the appointment of the Nominating Committee Chair by the RCC Chair, stating that the by-laws indicate that a subcommittee should elect its own chair. She also pointed out that the Nominating Committee did not meet; they conducted a telephone poll to determine that Dennis Winters would be the nominee. Dennis Winters noted that any actions he takes can be questioned by the assembly. Lorraine Brill pointed out that there was a call for other nominees for Chair, but none came forward. Winters also mentioned that he heard no objections when he asked Cathy Zukoski to serve as Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Ms. Zukoski stated that she called each member of the Nominating Committee to ask their opinion of the nominee for Chair, and Winters' name was the only one mentioned; she therefore saw no reason to call a meeting.

The minutes of the December 16, 1997 RCC meeting were approved as corrected.

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS:

Dennis Winters thanked June Morton and Lorraine Brill for serving as Vice Chairs, and Patricia Horrocks for serving as RTC representative in 1997. He then nominated the following for 1998 RCC positions: Vice President, New Jersey -- Don Nigro; Vice President, Pennsylvania -- Cathy Zukoski; and Regional Transportation Committee (RTC) Representative -- Sue McNamara. The RCC discussed whether the RTC representative should also serve as chairman of the RCC Transportation Subcommittee. Winters stated that he felt the RTC representative and the Transportation Subcommittee Chair should be one and the same, but the committee decided that this subcommittee, like other RCC subcommittees, should elect its own chairman.

The RCC discussed whether a conflict of interest existed since Sue McNamara's father has a vote, as an alternate, on the RTC. Winters stated that he would like to see a bicycle advocate on the RTC.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Lorraine Brill, seconded by Linda Ingenthron) to add Patricia Horrocks' name to the ballot for RTC Representative.

THE RCC VOTED BY BALLOT AND ELECTED PATRICIA HORROCKS AS RTC REPRESENTATIVE.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Lorraine Brill, seconded by Elaine Cohen) to elect the Vice Chairs by acclimation.

THE RCC ELECTED DON NIGRO AS NJ CHAIR AND CATHY ZUKOSKI AS PA CHAIR.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Lorraine Brill, seconded by Elaine Cohen) to elect Illy Sobel as RTC Alternate by acclimation.

THE RCC ELECTED ILLY SOBEL AS RTC ALTERNATE.

TIP AMENDMENT 9804:

Patricia Horrocks, Transportation Subcommittee Chair, reported that TIP Amendment 9804 (Trenton Traffic Signals) is a request from the City of Trenton to add a series of traffic signal projects at a total cost of \$3.2 million. These seven intersection improvements have been listed in earlier TIPs; engineering has been completed and the projects are now ready to move to construction. Funds will be moved from the Paulsboro Bridge project, which is not ready to advance at this time. The Transportation Subcommittee recommends approval. Claudia Crane questioned whether provisions have been made for safe pedestrian crossing and what the crossing distance is. After some inquiries, DVRPC staff determined that these crossings will be pedestrian friendly with cross walks and pedestrian push buttons for signals. Intersections are typically three lanes wide.

The RCC then discussed the need to forward questions regarding forthcoming projects to DVRPC staff or the Transportation Subcommittee in time that answers can be sought prior to the RCC meeting. RCC members are mailed documents in time to allow for review and questions prior to the monthly meeting. Ajay Creshkoff commented that agencies that submit requests should include more and better information. DVRPC staff should provide maps that indicate the locations of projects. Lorraine Brill noted that the RTC had listed requirements for the submittal of TIP projects and these should be followed. Candace Snyder will try to locate this list.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Sue McNamara, seconded by Peggy Killmer) to recommend approval of TIP Amendment 9804 but to voice concern that signalization should give adequate time for bicycles and pedestrians to cross, and should promote transit first. The RCC also again indicates its request that more and better information be provided for TIP amendments/modifications and that DVRPC staff provide maps showing the locations of projects.

MOTION CARRIED. (See voting record.)

TIP AMENDMENT 9735:

Patricia Horrocks stated that TIP Amendment 9735 is a request by Pottstown Urban Transit to utilize available dollars to purchase approximately one acre of land from PECO Energy for the purpose of developing a bus stop and turn-around near the campus of Montgomery County Community College. The project, estimated at \$200,000, maintains the financial constraint of the TIP. The Transportation Subcommittee recommends approval.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Patricia Horrocks, seconded by Illy Sobel) to recommend approval of TIP Amendment 9735.

MOTION CARRIED. (See voting record.)

FY 1999 DVRPC PLANNING WORK PROGRAM:

Michael Gatti, DVRPC Work Program Coordinator, was present to answer questions about the Draft FY 1999 DVRPC Planning Work Program. He stated that the Work Program can be revised during the year. Bill Rafsky submitted a letter requesting that some urgent housing concerns be added to the Work Program. Barry Seymour noted that he is looking at what might be possible through existing projects. These is currently a zero net pot of money for additional projects.

Ajay Creshkoff had sent a letter to Mike Gatti noting that the framework of the Work Program needs to be changed to reflect projects' relativity to the Year 2020 Plan and to allow for better evaluation. He recommends that the framework be recast for this or the next Work Program. Candace Snyder stated that RCC members had been receiving Work Program materials for the past five months and the Work Program Subcommittee had requested member input for the past four months. No input was received prior to last month, at which point the Board had already approved release of the document in its final draft form. If the RCC wants to have effective input, they must do so earlier in the process. The RCC discussed the need to promote projects as early as September of the appropriate year. Don Nigro

questioned the outcome and next steps of the transit study in last year's Work Program.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Lorraine Brill, seconded by Rosie McVay) to recommend approval of the FY 1999 Planning Work Program and to include copies of Bill Rafsky's and Ajay Creshkoff's letters in these minutes and in the presentation to the Board.

AMENDMENT (by Bill Rafsky, seconded by Jane Glenn) to urge the DVRPC staff and Board to include at least one housing study in the FY 1999 Planning Work Program.

MOTION, AS AMENDED, CARRIED. (See voting record.)

REGIONAL INDICATORS: MEASURING OUR PROGRESS TO 2020:

Barry Seymour, DVRPC's Assistant Executive Director for Regional Planning, stated that changes had been made to this project following comments from the RTC and RCC. Used as a guideline to check progress toward the Year 2020 Plan, the indicators are a collection of data in 27 categories. The project parameters include eight issue areas. Seymour then introduced Ben Ginsberg who stated that he is in the process of drafting a technical companion document that ties together the indicators and their regional significance. Ginsberg then reviewed the revisions to the indicators and received input from the RCC. Don Nigro stated that travel time should be included for transit; Ernest Cohen suggested that wildlife and habitat should be included; Peggy Killmer questioned why rail freight data was not included when it was provided in the monthly "Freight Lines" hand-out; John Pawson stated that the number of annual cars loaded should be available for freight; Ajay Creshkoff suggested writing to the chief economists are various major departments in Washington requesting additional information; Alma Wynne added that farmland needs to be examined as well as open space. Ginsberg will provide the RCC with the final report card.

TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT:

Patricia Horrocks reported that the Transportation Subcommittee was reviewing the New Jersey Congestion Management Study (CMS) and that comments had been made by Don Nigro and Peggy Killmer; these have been forwarded to DVRPC staff. Because of a number of questions raised by the subcommittee, Stanley Platt will provide the subcommittee with the criteria used to analyze and designate the practicality of transit in the CMS corridors. The subcommittee also recommended that DVRPC should more carefully consider the impact of one corridor on another, as well as re-examine the role of transit in alleviating congestion in select corridors.

Peggy Killmer raised the issue of Routes 1 and 571 and questioned why CMS strategies are not applied in this case. She stated that NJDOT is trying to grandfather the EIS for this corridor rather than conducting a new one. This issue will be discussed at a future Transportation Subcommittee meeting.

Ms. Horrocks then introduced the resolution proposed by John Pawson and approved by the subcommittee that lauds DVARP for its excursion by rail to Reading.

The resolution reads as follows: The RCC commends the Delaware Valley Association of Railroad Passengers (DVARP) for sponsoring an excursion train between Philadelphia, the Norristown Transportation Center, and the Vanity Fair Retail Outlet in Reading, along a corridor on which many agree rail passenger service is needed. Such excursions demonstrate physical feasibility and provide publicity for the restoration of regular service. Ron Brittin emphasized the need to look at the impact on communities before promoting the restoration of a rail line. He offered the proposed South Jersey Rail Line as an example.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Claudia Crane, seconded by Sue McNamara) to amend the proposed resolution drop the final sentence.

MOTION FAILED. (with 14 “nay” votes and 13 “aye” votes)

MOTION (by Pat Horrocks, seconded by Rosie McVay) to adopt the original resolution which reads “The RCC commends the Delaware Valley Association of Railroad Passengers (DVARP) for sponsoring an excursion train between Philadelphia, the Norristown Transportation Center, and the Vanity Fair Retail Outlet in Reading, along a corridor on which many agree rail passenger service is needed. Such excursions demonstrate physical feasibility and provide publicity for the restoration of regular service.”

MOTION CARRIED. (with two “nay” votes)

Patricia Horrocks then brought up two other John Pawson resolutions that had been approved by the Transportation Subcommittee. The first resolution provides a means of compromise on the Cross County Metro Study, and the second serves as a means of implementing the first.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Pat Horrocks, seconded by Lorraine Brill) to recommend the following resolution to the DVRPC Board:

The RCC believes that the alternatives being considered for public input for the Cross County Corridor Study are inadequate. If not changed, an unsuitable, overly costly, or inflexible solution may result. It is equally likely that a cost-effective solution will not emerge and that essentially nothing will be done to improve cross-county public transport soon.

Alternatives should be added to the current six:

1. A quality expressway bus service with minimal construction to connect park-and-

ride lots, highway turnout bus stops, and major business or industrial areas with a single bus ride.

Such service would utilize the Turnpike, Blue Route, etc., and could be incrementally developed. They would combine the experience of SEPTA's successful Schuylkill Expressway Routes 124 and 125 with the goals of the 1983 Montgomery County Turnpike Bus Study.

2. For longer distance travel, Amtrak service over a modestly improved railroad line.
3. Also for longer distance travel, improved intercity bus service, especially to Manhattan.
4. A non-electrified commuter rail service over a modestly upgraded railroad line which extends beyond the presently envisioned terminals to more marketable terminals -- Downingtown or beyond instead of Glenloch, and Trenton or beyond instead of Morrisville.
5. Some combination of these and other alternatives.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Patricia Horrocks, seconded by Lorraine Brill) to recommend the following to the DVRPC Board with the noted title change:

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
IN THE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS**

The RCC believes that the current "public meeting" format for studies such as the Cross County Metro is inadequate and potentially manipulative. It does not respond to the spirit of ISTEA requirements for public participation. The public meeting format means simultaneous conversations between individual members of the public and individual planners. The media is unable to report public comments back to their readers. Nothing is recorded in writing.

As a result, public views tend to be bottled up. The views of special interests and of planning and political communities will tend to dominate. The only way this can be avoided is to substitute conventional, media-reported public hearings for "public meetings" at each stage of the planning cycle for this and other major transportation projects.

MOTION CARRIED. (with four abstentions)

Ms. Horrocks then noted that the subcommittee discussed the letter of response sent by Denise Goren to Candy Snyder as a follow-up to the RCC's resolutions on Eastwick Station and Criteria for Public Transportation Projects. In comparing the description of the Eastwick Station in the TIP to that provided in Ms. Goren's letter, the subcommittee saw discrepancies and had questions. (See attached John Pawson paper outlining issues.) The subcommittee recommends that a SEPTA representative and Ms. Goren be invited to the February RCC meeting to answer these issues. Any further action on the Eastwick Station resolution will wait until this presentation. The RCC concurred.

Finally, Ms. Horrocks mentioned an issue brought to the subcommittee's attention by Sue McNamara. Sue McNamara explained the issues surrounding the Bicycle Network of Philadelphia, which is designed to link up with other bicycle paths throughout the suburban counties. Ms. McNamara stated that the Philadelphia Planning Commission had pulled the dollars committed as a match to this project, which was to receive CMAQ funds. She announced that \$3.7 million has been set aside for planning and construction and must be spent within a certain timeframe. The local match is needed to proceed.

The subcommittee recommends the following resolution to the RCC: The RCC lends its support to moving ahead aggressively with TIP Project 9703. The committee urges the City of Philadelphia to institute an \$80,000 match to comply with CMAQ requirements.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Pat Horrocks, seconded by Sue McNamara) to ask the DVRPC Board to urge the City of Philadelphia to institute an \$80,000 match to comply with CMAQ requirements, thus moving forward with TIP project 9703 (the Bicycle Network of Philadelphia).

MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion also arose regarding CMAQ requirements for meeting such obligations. This issue will be forwarded to DVRPC staff for a status report. The next meeting of the Transportation Subcommittee will be held at 12 Noon on Thursday, February 5, 1998 in DVRPC's Philadelphia Room. In addition, Lorraine Brill raised questions regarding alternative fuels and the proposed locations of stations as outlined in TIP #9706. She requested that a speaker be scheduled for the next Transportation Subcommittee meeting to address this issue.

ADDITIONAL SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Ily Sobel reported that the Year 2020 Task Force had been brainstorming ideas but was not yet ready to update the RCC at this time. They will probably be ready with a report next month.

Cathy Zukoski stated that the Legislative Subcommittee had met prior to this RCC meeting to put together an agenda for its next meeting and to hear ideas from members.

Ms. Zukoski stated that they are considering several proposed bills: the Pennsylvania Constitution mandates that dollars from the fuel tax can only be spent on highway projects; there is a need to amend this to allow funding of all transportation projects. Ms. Zukoski said that in 130 communities across the country, bicycle racks have been added to the front buses; in Pennsylvania, the state police are ticketing for this, and this should be corrected. She also pointed out that the subcommittee is particularly looking at legislation that will affect the Year 2020 Plan, such as the land use reform that Patrick Starr had presented at a previous meeting. The subcommittee will next meet at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, February 4, 1998 in DVRPC's Philadelphia Room.

The Rules Subcommittee had not met because it needs better direction and additional volunteers. Linda Ingenthron and Ajay Creshkoff currently sit on the subcommittee, and Dennis Winters will sit on this and all subcommittees as an ex-officio member. Other RCC members to volunteer for this task force include Lorraine Brill, Francene Brown and Don Nigro. Any RCC member can, however, attend any subcommittee meeting if they choose. The subcommittee will be asked to wordsmith the current by-law regarding the nomination of vice chairs and RTC representative; and to consider the issue to ending meetings when a majority of RCC members have departed. The Rules Subcommittee will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 5, 1998 in the Philadelphia Room.

Bill Rafsky announced that DVRPC's Housing Committee will meet in February, and lauded DVRPC staff for its comprehensive report on homelessness.

RECYCLING ISSUE:

Claudia Crane distributed a memo recommending recycling, as a follow-up to Jane Glenn's proposal that the RCC discussed last month. This memo basically supported Ms. Glenn's suggestions but added that recycled paper should be of "the highest possible post-consumer recycled content." Candace Snyder stated that DVRPC had thus far followed the lead of The Bourse Building and the City of Philadelphia in its recycling policy; namely that cans and paper, as trash, are recycled, and that paper for printing at DVRPC is recycled. The RCC felt that John Coscia should pursue more and better recycling policies with The Bourse. The comments made at this meeting will be added to Jane Glenn's proposal and discussed again in February.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sue McNamara pointed out that the word "bicycle" is not mentioned in DVRPC's FY 1997 Annual Report, and that "pedestrian" is only used once. Ms. Snyder made note of this fact.