

**MEETING MINUTES
OF THE DVRPC REGIONAL CITIZENS COMMITTEE
MARCH 10, 1998**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the February 10, 1998 RCC meeting were approved with the following changes: As a clarification, the firm of Frederick R. Harris is responsible for the Millstone Bypass CMS. John Pawson submitted the following additions (underlined): Page 1, paragraph 2 under Cross County: “The short list of alternatives includes no-build, TSM, regional rail ...”; Page 2, SEPTA Public Participation, paragraph 2: “... comments received. Members pointed out that in other metropolitan areas, steering groups were opened to all who felt concerned, and that discussions at each stage of the planning process were open, participants were well informed prior to the meeting, and meetings were well reported. This process was contrasted with the intimacy of the CCC meetings.”; and page 3, paragraph 2: “Knueppel pointed out ... at the station and that there are now about 150 weekday trips, mostly PNC shift workers. Members expressed a wait-and-see view regarding further large expenditures, and they supported Knueppel’s announcement that pedestrian access from the station to the neighborhood and to parking along Lanza Blvd. would soon be effected.”

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:

Dennis Winters, Chair, reported on the February 26, 1998 Board meeting, stating that the Board approved only the design phase of the Millstone Bypass TIP modification. He also noted that the City responded to the Chestnut Street Modification by stating that “when the design phase is complete, public meetings will be held.”

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Jane Glenn and Alma Wynne resubmitted their resolution on recycling; it suggests that DVRPC join the Philadelphia Commercial Recycling Center and commit to using all recycled products. A copy of the resolution is attached to these minutes.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Jane Glenn, seconded by Kevin Smith) to forward the recycling resolution to the DVRPC Board in an effort to maximize recycling at DVRPC and in The Bourse.

MOTION CARRIED. (See voting record.)

The RCC also reviewed a series of questions that John Pawson had drafted regarding SEPTA’s Cross County Corridor Study MIS and Task 10 Report. Candace Snyder had already faxed these questions to Rich Bickel at SEPTA so that he would know they were being discussed. He asked that the RCC

put the questions in the form of a request for information.

He stated that questions 13 - 19 were already posed to SEPTA by DVARP and are being addressed to that organization. The Task 10 Report has been requested and will be furnished to the RCC when it is received. Questions 2 - 8 are being investigated; and questions 9 - 12 are somewhat preliminary. Bickel stated that the comments made by Robert Moore and quoted by John Pawson are subjective, not factual. Bickel's response to question 19 was that the MIS Steering Committee is made up of representatives of the PA Turnpike Commission, Conrail, SEPTA, county and city planning departments, DVRPC, etc. The public does not have a seat on the committee. DVARP has been extended an invitation to sit in on the next meeting to address its questions. The RCC expressed concern that this steering committee will direct the project without public input.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by John Pawson, seconded by Don Nigro) to forward questions 1 - 12 and 19 to SEPTA as a request for information. The RCC also feels strongly that the MIS Steering Committee should invite John Pawson as the RCC representative to sit in on the next meeting, which the committee understands is scheduled for March 27, 1998.

The questions to be forwarded to SEPTA are as follows:

- *The RCC should be furnished with the entire Task 10 Report.
- * Please detail the alternative "Turnpike Bus". Is it the only TSM alternative? The RCC needs to know assumed routings, park-and-ride locations, vehicle quality (transit or high-back seats), standee policy, fares, frequencies, etc.
- * What alignment is assumed for "via Norristown"? What is the time penalty?
- * Describe the 2300 "existing traffic via Norristown". Why should it be diverted?
- * Bob Moore says that the 15,000 ridership projection is far too high because it is assumed that a significant number of car owners would accept a three-vehicle (auto-trunk line rail-feeder bus) trip, which he says does not fit the actions of auto owners.
- * Moore also states that the entire CC Metro would cost \$1 billion; please comment.
- * How many trips are there now into and out of Norristown over the CCC?
- * What is the daytime downtown population of Norristown today?
- * What are the fares and frequencies for the various alternatives?
- * What are the required additional annual operating subsidies for the alternatives, and where does the money come from?
- * Cost/benefit ratios for the alternatives?
- * Cost/benefit ratios for other SEPTA major investments for comparison?
- * Who constitutes the MIS Steering Committee and how may the RCC interact with it?

MOTION CARRIED. (See voting record.)

ROUTE 571 - PENNS NECK AREA (MILLSTONE BYPASS) CONGESTION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (CMS):

Paul Truban, NJDOT Project Engineer for Planning, reviewed the CMS' initial strategies and

community involvement opportunities, as well as results, findings and conclusions. The proposed commitments were outlined, and Truban pointed out that next steps include: a presentation to the DVRPC Board in March and the request for approval of a TIP amendment to add right-of-way and construction costs. Future tasks will entail a public meeting and the circulation of the draft environmental document. The RCC's questions ranged from the cost, derivation and percentages of strategies to the type of transit improvements examined. Truban pointed out that the environmental assessment will address a few different alignments and their ability to satisfy the area's needs.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Claudia Crane, seconded by Sue McNamara) to endorse the findings of the Millstone Bypass CMS.

MOTION FAILED. (See voting record.)

TIP MODIFICATION 9809:

Sue McNamara, Transportation Subcommittee Chair, referred the RCC to a letter from John Moore of NJDOT requesting consideration of TIP Modification 9809. This is a follow-up to February's DVRPC Board action that approved the design phase of improvements to US 1 and CR 571 (Millstone Bypass). Now right-of-way and construction phases are being requested for the above project. In the subcommittee meeting, Peggy Killmer had voiced her strong objections to this project, stating that once again NJDOT is barreling forward without regard to the environmental assessment being complete. The subcommittee recommended disapproving TIP Modification 9809.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Don Nigro, seconded by Claudia Crane) to recommend that the DVRPC Board disapprove TIP Modification 9809.

MOTION CARRIED. (See voting record.)

NEW JERSEY CMS:

Don Shanis, DVRPC's Associate Director for Transportation Planning, reviewed changes to the New Jersey CMS that had been endorsed by this committee and the DVRPC Board last fall. The original wording of the CMS had stated that a CMS must be completed for a project that would add significant capacity to the system and that is at least one mile in length. FHWA responded that this wording should be changed to examine any highway project that adds capacity to a road of any length. This will result in more projects being subject to CMS review. Sue McNamara presented Peggy Killmer's question regarding whether the state of New Jersey has a statewide CMS document, into which DVRPC and the other MPOs' CMS processes feed. Shanis stated that New Jersey's statewide CMS process is actually a geographic information system program, not a printed document. Shanis also

clarified the point that states are not required to have a statewide CMS in place; for example, Pennsylvania does not have one.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Don Nigro, seconded by John Pawson) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve the proposed change in procedure to the New Jersey CMS to look at all capacity-adding projects, to make determinations in a public forum as to whether further analyses are needed.

MOTION CARRIED. (See voting record.)

I-95 SCOTCH ROAD AND I-95/NJ 31 INTERCHANGES CMS:

Michael Boyer, DVRPC Transportation Planner, explained that a single occupant vehicle (SOV) enhancement is warranted in the I-95 Scotch Road and I-95/NJ 31 area to correct operational deficiencies. Boyer reviewed the recommended supplemental strategies, as well as the findings of the CMS report. He clarified the movements allowed at this time in the area and the proposed slip ramp and re-alignment. In response to questions, Boyer stated that spot congestion is not always picked up by traffic monitoring operations; future development is not always accounted for in models. Dan Knox of Mercer County stated that a 1989 law set up Transportation Development Districts (TDD's) and Mercer County was one of the first to take advantage of this. He anticipates a great deal of growth in the study area in the future. The RCC questioned whether the study had examined the use of the R-3, West Trenton Line. Knox responded that the study determined that the public transit alternative was not feasible.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Claudia Crane, seconded by Jane Glenn) to recommend that the DVRPC Board disapprove the CMS for I-95 Scotch Road and I-95/NJ 31 Interchanges.

MOTION CARRIED. (See voting record.)

ADDITIONAL ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by John Pawson, seconded by Ernest Cohen) to state to the DVRPC Board that the RCC does not believe that public transit alternatives have been appropriately addressed in the CMS; in particular, extension of the R-3, West Trenton Line.

MOTION CARRIED.

CREATION OF RCC ENVIRONMENTAL SUBCOMMITTEE:

At this point, Dennis Winters brought up his idea to create a subcommittee to review environmental impact statements. Linda Ingenthron questioned whether committee members had the time and expertise to deal with this issue. Winters called for volunteers for such a subcommittee; Ernest Cohen, Cathy Zukoski and Shirley Loveless expressed interest.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Ernest Cohen, seconded by Cathy Zukoski) to create an Environmental Subcommittee and to request that PennDOT and NJDOT forward six copies of all future environmental impact statements to the RCC for review.

MOTION TABLED. (Linda Ingenthron stated that this discussion was out of order and was not on the agenda, nor had the Chair received the consent of the RCC to change the agenda. Discussion will continue under New Business.)

TIP MODIFICATION 9739:

Sue McNamara reported on SEPTA's request for approval of various projects. A number of these projects needed to be moved from FY 1998 to FY 1999, including a Communications Center, Capital Asset Lease Program, Underground Storage Tank Replacement, Utility Fleet Renewal Program, and Broad Street Subway Signals. These reductions total \$44,800,000. Those projects that will be advanced include the Market Frankford Infrastructure, Station Accessibility Program, and Market Elevated Reconstruction Program. The additions for the FY 1998 TIP total \$45,200,000. The \$400,000 difference between the two totals will be made up by SEPTA from available funds. Rich Burnfield of SEPTA was on hand to answer RCC questions. The subcommittee recommended approval of TIP Modification 9739.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Illy Sobel, seconded by Cathy Zukoski) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Modification 9739.

MOTION CARRIED. (See voting record.)

UPDATE OF THE YEAR 2020 LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION PLAN:

Sue McNamara reported that the subcommittee felt that the timing of the Plan Update is a problem and that once again DVRPC is submitting to NJDOT's rigorous schedule. Because the public comment period does not end until March 20th, public response to the draft Update document will not be available to the RCC before it votes on the issue. Dennis Winters' comments on behalf of the Clean Air Council were made available to the RCC. The subcommittee did not make a recommendation on this action item, pending further RCC discussion. Pat Horrocks stated that she was disappointed in the staff at NJDOT; at the RTC meeting, the Plan Update came up for a vote and none of NJDOT's staff

was present. They were all out getting lunch. She felt that this showed a great deal of ingratitude toward DVRPC which had moved its Plan Update schedule forward to accommodate NJDOT.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Rosie McVay, seconded by Sue McNamara) that the RCC not take a position on the Update because the committee felt it did not have sufficient time to review the document. In addition, a summary of public comments was not available to the RCC.

MOTION CARRIED. (See voting record.)

Discussion ensued when Ajay Creshkoff presented his feelings regarding DVRPC's need to do more to achieve the goals of the Year 2020 Plan.

ADDITIONAL ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Ajay Creshkoff, seconded by Illy Sobel) that the RCC forward this statement to the DVRPC Board: In order to facilitate more progress toward the goals of the Year 2020 Plan, DVRPC should take the lead in creating an inter-agency cooperative, coordinated working group involving the heads of the county planning departments and local municipal officials within the DVRPC region.

MOTION CARRIED.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

On behalf of the **Legislative Subcommittee**, Cathy Zukoski and Patrick Starr distributed materials from the Pennsylvania Planning Association and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council regarding various bills. Starr detailed SB 270, 1613, 1614 and 1615. These issues will be voted on next month by the subcommittee and recommendations will then be brought to the RCC. Pat Horrocks stated that she will bring her municipal supervisor with her to the next meeting because she has questions about certain wording in the bills. Cathy Zukoski asked for additional volunteers for the subcommittee. The next meeting of the group is scheduled for 12 Noon on April 8, 1998. The report of the **Transportation Subcommittee** included the election of Sue McNamara as Chair; this committee will meet at 12 Noon on April 9, 1998. Linda Ingenthron announced that the **Rules Subcommittee** is revising the RCC mission statement and trying to draft by-laws. This group will meet next at 11 a.m. on April 14, 1998. Illy Sobel reported that the **Year 2020 Task Force** is examining how MIS procedures can be used to implement the Year 2020 Plan. Sobel stated that the William Penn foundation has set aside dollars to look at transportation problems in the Delaware Valley.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dennis Winters suggested that action on the Environmental Subcommittee be deferred until next month. He also mentioned that several RCC members had questioned whether additional evening meetings will be held since it is often difficult for them to attend during the day. The RCC agreed that the second Tuesday in May might be a viable time to hold the next evening meeting, and that additional evening meetings should be considered quarterly. This issue will be discussed further at the next RCC meeting.