

**MEETING MINUTES  
OF THE DVRPC REGIONAL CITIZENS COMMITTEE  
JUNE 9, 1998**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes of the May 12, 1998 RCC meeting were approved as mailed.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

Dennis Winters, RCC Chair, reviewed various hand-outs he had brought to the meeting as well as a publication produced by the PA Economy League.

**PA 463 (HORSHAM ROAD) CMS ANALYSIS:**

Michael Boyer, DVRPC Transportation Planner, reviewed the Draft PA 463 (Horsham Road) Congestion Management System (CMS) Analysis that had been mailed to RCC members. Boyer explained that federal requirements stipulate that projects which provide a significant increase in capacity for single occupant vehicles (SOV) should also address strategies which reduce SOV travel and improve the efficiency of the existing transportation infrastructure. In response, DVRPC has developed a network of major highways and passenger rail systems that focuses attention and resources on the most critical facilities for moving people and goods. The corridors identified in DVRPC's Year 2020 Long-Range Plan were used as the basis for the CMS corridors.

PA 463 is an east-west arterial that runs through Horsham Twp. and northern Montgomery County. PennDOT plans to widen this road to four lanes with a center turn lane between PA 611 and Babylon Road. This segment is currently a two-lane highway with average daily traffic volumes ranging from 13,750 to 26,400 vehicles per day. The road lies directly south of the Willow Grove U.S. Naval Air Station. Two large employers are consolidating and relocating a total of about 2300 employees to the Commonwealth Corporate Center on PA 463. Because this project will not have a significant environmental impact, PennDOT anticipates that a Class II National Environmental Policy Act Environmental Document Categorical Exclusion will be granted once all federal requirements are submitted.

The RCC discussed level of service; the source of traffic in this area; and whether the Partnership TMA could be added to the list of companies that are promoting flexible work hours. The RCC also reviewed the action taken by the RTC.

***ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:***

*MOTION* (by Lorraine Brill, seconded by Francene Brown) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve the PA 463 Congestion Management System Analysis with the understanding that the final report would list voluntary measures separately from the CMS commitments.

*MOTION FAILED* (See Item A on voting record.)

**1997 ESTIMATES OF POPULATION, HOUSEHOLDS AND EMPLOYMENT:**

Barry Seymour, DVRPC Assistant Executive Director for Regional Planning, outlined the methodology used to determine population, household and employment estimates, which are basic inputs to the Commission's travel simulation models and land use planning projects. Currently, DVRPC uses 1990 Census data as a base for all transportation and regional planning activities. This data is eight years old and does not reflect the changes that have occurred throughout the region. As part of the agency's work program, DVRPC has developed 1997 estimates at the county and municipal levels. These are based on Census population estimates, as well as information from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Existing data from Pennsylvania and New Jersey state agencies, as well as local municipalities, were also considered.

Seymour pointed out that the trends of today are the same as those that have existed for a number of years. The City of Philadelphia has lost approximately 100,000 in population over the past seven years. However, the overall region has gained about 1% in population which is a fairly flat growth rate. The City of Philadelphia has never accepted the 1990 Census count, and legally challenged the number; this lawsuit was rejected. This undercount has serious implications for the City; namely, the loss of congressional seats and federal funding. The City has asked DVRPC to adjust its numbers to correct for this perceived undercount. In turn, DVRPC has proposed adding a footnote to its published data stating that the City has challenged the printed number. Seymour referenced correspondence from Barbara Kaplan to John Coscia on this subject. (A copy of this letter will be included in the next RCC mailing.) This issue will be discussed at the June 18 Board Policy Committee meeting, as will the controversial topic of statistical sampling.

Seymour also reviewed employment and household numbers and methodology, and addressed questions regarding job trends and the publication of these numbers as a technical document. The RTC voted to defer action to the Board Policy Committee on this issue.

***ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:***

*MOTION* (by Miles Day, seconded by Ron Brittin) to recommend the DVRPC Board accept the 1990 Census count for the City of Philadelphia, as well for the other suburban counties, and use this as the basis for DVRPC's work.

*MOTION* (by Don Nigro, seconded by Peter Javscicas) to table this action.

***MOTION TO TABLE PASSED.***

**UPDATE ON ISTE A REAUTHORIZATION:**

Don Shanis, DVRPC Deputy Director of the Transportation Planning Division, reviewed the new Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) legislation that is the result of negotiations between the US House and Senate. TEA-21, the renewal of ISTE A, pumps @ \$215 billion into transportation improvements over the next six years (from 198 - 2003). The share for Pennsylvania increased significantly while New Jersey's portion is somewhat larger. The bill provides \$200.5 billion in guaranteed funding through a discretionary firewall provided in the legislation. The remaining \$15 billion would be subject to the annual appropriations process. Shanis reviewed the highway and transit funding, and stated that this legislation confirms the general direction initiated in ISTE A; namely, support for intermodalism, public participation, flexible funding and CMAQ. Many specifics in the legislation have yet to be defined and interpreted. The RCC discussed earmarks and Amtrak's funding situation.

**ISSUES FOR REVIEW WITH DVRPC STAFF:**

The RCC reviewed the *Criteria for Motor Road Proposals* as well as the *Public Transit Criteria* that they had adopted in the past, as well as a list of issues drafted by Bill Rafsky. Ajay Creshkoff stated that it is difficult for the RCC to evaluate projects because the process is not well-defined and RCC input is at the end. He feels that the TIP project ranking and score sheet would be useful for the RCC as well. The RCC directed each subcommittee to review the issues on Bill Rafsky's list that are appropriate to their area of concern and return to the next RCC meeting with recommendations. The Transportation Subcommittee and the Year 2020 Task Force were also asked to review Ajay Creshkoff's paper on the criteria.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Cathy Zukoski, Chair of the Legislative Subcommittee, asked for the RCC's response to a proposed workshop on effective lobbying or on how a bill becomes law. Should such a workshop be held at the RCC's August meeting, or with another scheduled conference (such as the Environmental Congress scheduled for September in Harrisburg)? The purpose is to empower groups and individuals. Don Nigro questioned whether this was the role of the RCC and this subcommittee. RCC members suggested that would be interested in the lobbying workshop, as well as one on TEA-21. Pat Horrocks pointed out that the League of Women Voters sponsors these types of workshops. This topic will go back to the subcommittee for further refinement.

The Year 2020 Task Force is examining issues that can be presented to the RCC for immediate action and implementation, as well as its overall role.

Bill Rafsky reported that he will make a report available on housing at the next meeting.

The RCC discussed the best way to review the DVRPC FY 1999 Work Program. The RCC decided to have each subcommittee examine and set priorities in July for review at the next RCC meeting. These priorities will set the stage for the issues that the RCC will promote as goals in the draft work program. This approach will take the place of a Work Program Subcommittee.

The Environmental Subcommittee will probably meet in July. Candace Snyder will check on the availability of the EIS for Section 600 of US 202. The RCC discussed the fact that the EIS for the Horsham Road CMS was negligible and should be examined.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Dennis Winters announced that the Board Policy Committee will review the Pennsylvania Turnpike motion and the Planning Criteria for Land Use Resolution on June 18th. The RCC pointed out that the Turnpike motion should also include New Jersey.