

**MEETING MINUTES
OF THE DVRPC REGIONAL CITIZENS COMMITTEE
JULY 14, 1998**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the June 9, 1998 RCC meeting were approved as mailed.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Dennis Winters, RCC Chair, announced that long-time RCC member, Illy Sobel, is in the University of Pennsylvania Hospital in critical condition; RCC members are urged to send cards to his family. Winters also reviewed the hand-outs he had placed outside the meeting room; namely a brochure and newsletter entitled *Getting There* and news clippings on saving agricultural land and on pedestrian safety. He then outlined a presentation sponsored by the Clean Air Council and the Sustainable Energy Education Program that could be made available to the RCC at its August meeting. The RCC agreed to add this to its August agenda.

**DRAFT FY 1999 REGIONAL AIRPORTS CAPITAL PROGRAM
RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Roger Moog, DVRPC's Manager, Office of Aviation Planning, explained that the Year 2020 Systems Aviation Plan was adopted in 1995. In conjunction with the goals of this plan, the region's capital needs are reviewed annually and recommendations are then forwarded to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and state aviation divisions. These recommendations are presented as advisory only and represent what the region believes to be its priorities. Funds are then allotted from the federal aviation trust fund, as well as through state block grants and state aviation funds.

The RCC received a listing of the FY 1998 regional grants; FY 1998 funding totaled \$23 million, a significant increase over FY 1997 funding, with monies for small airports increasing significantly. For the coming fiscal year (October 1, 1998 - September 30, 1999), funds are recommended for Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), which will use a significant amount for the new runway (runway8/26). Access roads will also be needed into the new terminal area. In addition, 10 smaller airports have been identified as needing public support; among these are Cross Keys, Buehl, Wings, Pottstown Limerick, Brandywine, New Garden, and Summit. Without these federal funds which lock the reliever airports into the regional aviation system, there is the risk that these properties will be sold to developers.

Moog discussed the situation regarding Wings Airports, noting that local neighbors are opposed to

construction of an extended runway.

The neighbors have demanded that their state legislators enact legislation that requires the approval of residents before federal or state funds can be used for expansion or construction. This legislation, which applies only to Montgomery County, has now caused a backlash in Washington where the FAA believes that this allows local legislators to control federal funding. It presents a conflict with the use of block grants; the Airline Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) has initiated a lobbying effort in Washington to pull these funds out of Pennsylvania. The DVRPC Board and the Commission's Aviation Committee have also expressed their desire to see this legislation overturned. The RCC discussed the number of helicopters and the level of fixed wing aircraft using Wings Airport. Moog pointed out that the new runway in question would handle the same weight and size aircraft as before; this is simply a safety standard issue. The Committee also discussed the attrition of small airports, and the use of conflict negotiation to handle the Wings issue.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Lorraine Brill, seconded by Sue McNamara) to recommend that the DVRPC Board endorse the recommendations of the Regional Aviation Committee for improvements to the regional aviation system in FY 1999.

MOTION CARRIED. (See Item A on voting record.)

TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT STUDY FOR THE PROPOSED I-295/I-76, NJ ROUTE 42 INTERCHANGE:

Don Shanis, DVRPC Deputy Director of Transportation Planning, stated that the new TEA-21 legislation has eliminated the major investment study (MIS) phase and integrated it into the environmental impact statement (EIS) process. With this in mind, the transportation investment study is another means of examining the need for a project. Shanis stated that the study for the proposed I-295/I-76, NJ Route 42 interchange will not go before the Board because the project is already in the Work Program in part. He highlighted the degree of congestion in this area, noting that there are major safety issues. DVRPC is currently working with consultants on the study and will be looking for public input. A series of meetings will be held this fall to further examine the issue; two public meetings are scheduled for September and November, and four stakeholder meetings will be held with agencies and providers who will evaluate the process and citizen input.

Don Nigro pointed out that this highway project is in an area where a proposed rail line has been the focus of debate. Gloucester County is devoid of rail service, and these highways can benefit from transit alternatives. Shanis stated that prior studies will be examined, as will transit alternatives. The RCC also discussed the need to examine land use issues, the cost of the project, and tying the study into the New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan.

Shanis then requested the RCC's recommendations for effective public involvement. John Pawson emphasized the need for completely open public meetings, in which citizens can freely share their comments with the entire audience. Other suggestions included speaking with key community and organizational leaders; using highway messaging to announce public meetings; mailing notices by bulk mail to ensure mass education; and using school district newsletters to get the word out about the project. The RCC asked that a representative of this committee be appointed to the stakeholder group. The RCC then reviewed the Transportation Subcommittee's recommendation, which was put into a formal motion.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Sue McNamara, seconded by Don Nigro) to recommend that the DVRPC Board support the Transportation Investment Study. The RCC views this largely as a transportation capacity problem. We believe that transit alternatives can significantly, or even fully, address the mobility pressures of the area; the

Burlington-Gloucester MIS needs to be considered. Specifically, the alternatives to be studied should include:

1. Light rail and modified light rail (modified PATCO) alternatives to Mantua where the Camden-Glasboro freight line intersects Route 55;
2. Furthermore, Atlantic City Rail Line improvements should include --
 - a. The addition of one peak hour peak direction round-trip;
 - b. Lessen travel time of each run by 20 - 35 minutes to what it was 50 years ago;
 - c. Directly extend service to Suburban Station.

AMENDMENT (by Peggy Killmer, seconded by Lorraine Brill) to include the wording: In addition, the RCC encourages vigorous consistency with the New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan, with particular emphasis on the transportation improvements listed above.

AMENDMENT (by Peter Javscas, seconded by Ernest Cohen) to add this wording to the beginning of the motion: The RCC favors an approach that gives top priority to public transportation solutions to the problem.

FIRST AMENDMENT CARRIED; SECOND AMENDMENT FAILED.

MOTION CARRIED, AS AMENDED. (See Item B on voting record.)

TIP AMENDMENT 9744:

Sue McNamara, Transportation Subcommittee Chair, reviewed TIP Amendment 9744 which had been submitted by the City of Philadelphia. The Philadelphia Department of Streets is developing a

geographic information system (GIS) which will compile hard-copy roadway and transportation facility data. Funding to hire a consultant to help with this development is requested in the TIP.

The RTC had a problem with this request; namely, is this project eligible for highway funds? Because the RTC voted to table this amendment, it will not come before the DVRPC Board for action. Lorraine Brill introduced a letter sent to the RTC from Joe Syrnick of the Street Department, providing more information about the project, its scope and funding.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Lorraine Brill, seconded by Ajay Creshkoff) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Amendment 9744, provided that all information generated by the project be readily accessible to the public, including Internet access.

MOTION CARRIED. (See Item C on voting record.)

TIP AMENDMENT 9745:

Sue McNamara stated that TIP Amendment 9745, also from the City of Philadelphia, encompasses remedial painting on parts of ten bridges in order to prolong the lives of various structural members. Funds will be taken from the Gowen Ave. Bridge project. The RTC approved this action. The subcommittee recommends that the RCC approve TIP Amendment 9745.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Sue McNamara, seconded by Cathy Zukoski) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve TIP Amendment 9745.

MOTION CARRIED. (See Item D on voting record.)

TIP AMENDMENT 9746:

TIP Amendment 9746 is a request from PennDOT to add an extension to Winding Way into an industrial site and to bypass the intersection of Routes 252 and 3. The Arco site in Chester County is being taken over by SAP America, which is funding the engineering. State highway funds would be used to construct the extension. The RTC voted to approve the amendment pending the determination of the need for an air quality analysis and the acceptability of this analysis. The subcommittee disagreed with the use of state funds for private development. The subcommittee recommends that the RCC deny approval of TIP Amendment 9746 because it encourages SOV usage. The RCC discussed transit options; the need for bicycle and pedestrian accommodations; and the use of public funds for construction on private property. The issue of using public monies for private economic development will be taken up by the Transportation Subcommittee at its next meeting.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Sue McNamara, seconded by Ernest Cohen) to recommend that the DVRPC Board deny approval of TIP Amendment 9746 because it encourages single occupancy vehicle (SOV) usage.

AMENDMENT (by Ernest Cohen, seconded by Elaine Cohen) to add the wording: Consideration should be given to adding rail service on West Chester Pike and on the Newtown Square Rail Route.

AMENDMENT (by Bill Rafsky, seconded by Bob Machler) to table the motion and send it back to subcommittee to investigate this issue further.

MOTION TO TABLE FAILED.

AMENDMENT (by Peggy Killmer, seconded by Harry Hyde) to add the wording: The RCC takes this opportunity to reaffirm its position that bicycle and pedestrian considerations, as mandated by TEA-21, should be part of all federal and state funded projects.

FIRST AMENDMENT FAILED; SECONDED AMENDMENT CARRIED.

MOTION, AS AMENDED, CARRIED. (See Item E on voting record.)

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Transportation Subcommittee brought up the issue of the Horsham Road CMS, which the RCC had voted against last month; a recent newspaper article stated that the highway will be extended beyond the original recommendation in the CMS and will be financed through additional state funding. The subcommittee questioned whether this will again come before the DVRPC Board for action. Don Shanis stated that he had requested information on this issue from Montgomery County. The county confirmed that the roadway will expand to five lanes, with three lanes in the new extension; the county also sees no need for this to come to DVRPC again because they believe the CMS indicated the need for this extension. They clarified that grants will go through the Montgomery County Industrial Development Authority. Shanis stated that he will follow up on this issue; the subcommittee will also place this issue on its next agenda.

Ms. McNamara reported that the subcommittee reviewed the *Criteria for Highway Projects* and for *Transit Projects* and felt they were both adequate. They were not sure what to do with Ajay Creshkoff's paper on the criteria. Creshkoff explained his thinking, stressing the need to review the

TIP ranking procedures as well. This issue will go back to the subcommittee for further study.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Sue McNamara, seconded by Claudia Crane) to recommend that the RCC send a letter to John Coscia regarding the RCC's project evaluation criteria, urging their distribution within the agency and stating that these criteria will be addressed to each staff person making a presentation. This letter will point out that these criteria were approved and sent to John Coscia approximately two years ago and are important for project evaluation. A copy of the criteria will be attached to this correspondence.

MOTION CARRIED. (See Item F on voting record.)

Ms. McNamara then brought up the issue of ranking projects for congestion management and air quality (CMAQ) and transportation enhancement (TE) funds. This issue has been addressed to Chick Dougherty, DVRPC's Manager of the Office of Capital Program Development. The RCC strongly believes that citizens should not be shut out of the process.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Sue McNamara, seconded by Claudia Crane) to recommend that the DVRPC Board take a stand supporting citizen involvement in the CMAQ and TE ranking process, using a diverse stakeholder group as exemplified by the previous procedures under ISTEA; this process should be promoted in both Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

MOTION CARRIED. (See Item G on voting record.)

Ernest Cohen announced that the Year 2020 Task Force wants to change its mission to go beyond the goal of examining the Year 2020 Plan's priorities and implementation; he believes the task force should be renamed the Delaware Valley Sustainability Task Force. Ajay Creshkoff stated, also a member of the task force, stated that he believes this should be an environmental task force to examine the effects of transportation impacts on humans and the natural and manmade environment. Dennis Winters emphasized the continued need to evaluate all projects for their compliance with the Year 2020 Plan. The RCC already has an Environmental Subcommittee charged with reviewing environmental impact statements. Cohen, Creshkoff and John Pawson will draft a brief summary describing a suggested direction for the task force, to be presented to the RCC in August. Dennis Winters will draft an outline of the NEPA process for the RCC.

Bill Rafsky stated that the Regional Housing Committee will propose five various housing studies for the

FY 2000 Work Program. He expressed his concern with promoting these projects in a timely manner.

The Legislative Subcommittee meeting was canceled this month.

FY 2000 WORK PROGRAM:

The RCC will discuss Work Program priorities in August.

NEW BUSINESS:

The RCC discussed the possible need for a new alternate to the RTC, since Illy Sobel is too ill to continue this responsibility. This item will be placed on the August RCC agenda. Candace Snyder will take care of sending a card from the RCC to Illy Sobel and/or his family.

The RCC will meet at 12 Noon on August 11; the Legislative Subcommittee will meet at Noon on August 5; and the Transportation Subcommittee will meet at 12 Noon on August 6.