

**MEETING MINUTES  
OF THE DVRPC REGIONAL CITIZENS COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 12, 1999**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes of the RCC meeting of December 3, 1998 were approved as mailed. The minutes of the RCC meeting of December 8, 1998 will be reviewed for approval at the February RCC meeting.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

Dennis Winters, RCC Chair, thanked everyone for their support during the Chairman's election in December. As per RCC procedures, Winters opened the floor for the **election of vice chairs for 1999**. He then nominated Cathy Zukoski as the PA Vice Chair for 1999, and Don Nigro as the NJ Vice Chair for 1999. He opened the floor for additional nominations for the positions of vice chairs; there being none, the floor was closed to nominations. Cathy Zukoski and Don Nigro were named Vice Chairs for 1999.

Winters then nominated Sue McNamara as the RCC representative to the DVRPC Regional Transportation Committee (RTC) for 1999. He opened the floor for additional nominations; Lorraine Brill nominated Patricia Horrocks. There being no additional nominations, the floor was closed to nominations. Through a ballot, RCC members voted for the RTC representative; Sue McNamara was declared the RTC representative for 1999. Patricia Horrocks was named the alternate RTC representative. In addition, Winters appointed Bill Rafsky as the RCC representative to the DVRPC Housing Committee. The RCC agreed with this appointment.

In other business, Winters stated that he believed the **RCC's subcommittees** needed to be more structured via core groups that form the foundation of each subcommittee. Any RCC member can volunteer for the core group which would receive all key materials related to a subcommittee's agenda. One reason for this distinction is that mailing and copy costs have skyrocketed and all materials cannot possibly be distributed to all RCC members. Any RCC member could attend any subcommittee but only the core group would receive select materials. It is also necessary so that members can be contacted if a subcommittee meeting is canceled. RCC members agreed with this theory and volunteers were acknowledged for each subcommittee. A list of these subcommittee core groups is attached and will be distributed to key DVRPC staff.

Winters announced that the Board Policy Committee has established a **PA Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Committee** that will be comprised mostly of RTC representatives, but has offered three seats to the RCC.

It is up to the RCC to fill these seats; the Board has also suggested the categories of general public, transit user and environmental advocate. Winters stated that he hopes that one additional category can be added for bicycle advocate. The RCC discussed these categories, the need for “pedestrian” to be added (probably to the transit user category), and the time commitment involved in this responsibility.

***ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:***

***MOTION*** (by Lorraine Brill, seconded by Elaine Cohen) to recommend that the RCC select representatives based upon the categories suggested by the DVRPC Board: i.e., general public, transit user and environmental advocate. In addition, the RCC will ask the Board to allow one additional seat for a bicycle advocate.

***MOTION CARRIED.***

Following an election for the contested categories, the following were appointed to the PA CMAQ Committee: Patricia Horrocks (representing the general public); Lorraine Brill (representing the transit user/pedestrian); Dennis Winters (environmental advocate); and, if permitted by the Board, Sue McNamara (bicycle advocate).

**NJDOT STUDY AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM:**

Sue McNamara, Transportation Subcommittee Chair, reported that NJDOT had made a presentation to the subcommittee regarding the Study and Development Program, which serves as an inventory of issues or problem areas that need to be studied prior to channeling them into the TIP. Jerry Mooney, NJDOT Liaison to DVRPC, explained the program, as well as regionally significant projects and their relationship to air quality conformity and the TIP. An overview of the goals of the Capital Investment Strategy was also provided. The RCC discussed the feasibility of the study criteria, the segmentation of larger projects into small ones, the list of highway projects that the RCC has opposed in the past, and the need for a comprehensive plan.

***ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:***

***MOTION*** (by Sue McNamara, seconded by Ernest Cohen) to recommend that the DVRPC Board approve the NJDOT Study and Development Program but to oppose those projects that the RCC has opposed in the past; the RCC also sees a serious flaw in NJDOT planning efforts; i.e., the segmentation of projects that leads to inaccurate NEPA results.

***MOTION DEFEATED.***

***ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:***

***MOTION*** (by Sue McNamara, seconded by Peggy Killmer) to state that the RCC praises NJDOT for engaging in early planning and development, but the committee reaffirms its opposition to certain projects on the NJDOT Study and Development Program that it has opposed in the past. These include the I-295/NJ 42 Interchange; NJ Route 29; Improvements to US 1 and CR 571; and the I-95 Scotch Road CMS and I-95/NJ 31 Interchange. In addition to this list of projects, the RCC believes there needs to be comprehensive regional planning for transportation improvements. By listing projects in small units, some larger projects are segmented, preventing good regional planning and creating potential flaws in the NEPA process (i.e., induced demand counts.)

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

**DVRPC FY 1999 - 2002 TIP FOR PA:**

Sue McNamara reported that the Transportation Subcommittee had reviewed the PA Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and recommended certain actions.

***ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:***

***MOTION*** (by Sue McNamara, seconded by Lorraine Brill) that the RCC oppose TIP #9555 (School House Lane) unless the width of the street is restricted to 24 feet including shoulders and cartways between Henry Avenue and Gypsy Lane.

***MOTION CARRIED.***

***MOTION*** (by Sue McNamara, seconded by Claudia Crane) that the RCC oppose TIP #9345 (Krewstown Road Bridge) because the City Streets Department has not documented the need.

***MOTION CARRIED.***

***MOTION*** (by Sue McNamara, seconded by Lorraine Brill) that the RCC urge that TIP #5678 (Newtown Trails 1) comply with the ASHTO standard of eight (8) feet in width.

***MOTION CARRIED.***

***MOTION*** (by Sue McNamara, seconded by Finley Shapiro) that the RCC urge the restoration of TIP #8703 (Schuylkill Trail right-of-way and construction) as a priority on the TIP.

***MOTION CARRIED.***

***MOTION*** (by Sue McNamara, seconded by Claudia Crane) that the RCC oppose fast-tracking TIP #P03 (Chestnut Street Transitway - Phase 2).

***MOTION DEFEATED.***

***MOTION*** (by Jane Glenn, seconded by Ernest Cohen) that the RCC oppose TIP #P03 (the Chestnut Street Transitway - Phase 2) as presently conceived.

***MOTION CARRIED.***

***MOTION*** (by Sue McNamara, seconded by Ernest Cohen) that the RCC encourage officials not to accept a replacement in kind, in terms of top speed, for TIP #S006 (Wayne Junction to Glenside - Philadelphia) as was the case with the Railworks project.

***MOTION CARRIED.***

***MOTION*** (by Sue McNamara, seconded by Ernest Cohen) that the RCC urge removal of the following sentence in the description of TIP #S053 (Light Rail Rolling Stock Acquisition): “The Rail Rolling Stock Acquisition project will also provide for the purchase of vehicles required to support the Schuylkill Valley Metro Line.”

***MOTION CARRIED.***

***MOTION*** (by Sue McNamara, seconded by Jane Glenn) that the RCC encourage SEPTA to quantify the benefits for additional riders and miles per day on TIP #S071 (Eastwick Train Station).

***MOTION CARRIED.***

**MOTION** (by Sue McNamara, seconded by Lorraine Brill) that the RCC urge PennDOT to hold a meeting with the local community before proceeding with the study and design phase of TIP #P11 (North Delaware Ave. - Lewis Street to Bridge Street).

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION** (by Sue McNamara, seconded by Kevin Smith) that the RCC encourage all sponsoring agencies to involve local communities early in all projects.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION** (by Sue McNamara, seconded by Ernest Cohen) that the RCC request more information regarding TIP #0537 (Alternative Fuel Project), specifically about the type of vehicles to be used, the history of these vehicles, their availability, etc.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION** (by Sue McNamara, seconded by Ernest Cohen) that the RCC urge that sidewalks be installed as part of TIP #8624 (Ridge Pike - Reconstruction and Turn Lanes) to resolve safety issues.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION** (by Sue McNamara, seconded by Jane Glenn) that the RCC urge PennDOT to include in TIP #6719 (PA 41, Delaware State Line to PA 926, Reconstruction and New Capacity) the study of an on-line minimal highway expansion, including a modest 2-lane truck bypass around Avondale and incorporating safety enhancements such as 35 mph speed limits, turning lanes and center-lane rumble strips.

**ADDITIONAL MOTION** (by Linda Ingenthron, seconded by Susan McCue) to refer the above motion to the Transportation Subcommittee for further study.

**MOTION TO REFER THIS ISSUE BACK TO THE TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE CARRIED.**

The above motion was the focus of RCC discussion due to assertions by Linda Ingenthron, Susan McCue and Regina Botkin that the original motion, as debated and recommended by the subcommittee, was the result of a conflict of interest on the part of Wayne DiFrancesco, a resident of

London Grove Township and a local developer. They also declared that this viewpoint is only one among many and the matter needs further debate. DiFrancesco stated that his township represents 4-1/2 miles of the 9-mile segment of roadway under discussion, and that he had 300 names on a petition supporting this action. This issue will be on the agenda of the Transportation Subcommittee meeting of February 4, 1999; all interested individuals are asked to be present.

**MOTION** (by Sue McNamara, seconded by Bob Machler) that the RCC urge PennDOT to move TIP #6813 (Avondale and Baltimore Pike Intersection) expeditiously.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION** (by Sue McNamara, seconded by Ernest Cohen) that the DVRPC Board adopt the DVRPC FY 1999 - 2002 TIP for Pennsylvania with the RCC comments listed above.

**MOTION CARRIED.** (See Item B on voting record.)

**YEAR 2020 TRANSPORTATION PLAN AMENDMENTS:**

Ron Roggenburk, DVRPC Manager, Office of Air Quality Planning, stated that later this month the Board will consider amending the *Year 2020 Land Use and Transportation Plan* to include seven projects in Pennsylvania, and to endorse the Determination of Conformity between the amended Plan and the State Air Quality Implementation Plan. The projects in the proposed Plan Amendments are those which are in the FY 1999 - 2002 PA TIP and which are regionally significant in terms of their impact on travel and emissions, and are not already in the Plan. The projects include Highland Avenue Extension (\$21 million); PA 23 Relocation (\$58 million); PA 309 to Sumneytown Connector (\$7 million); PA 63 Widening, Turnpike to Detweiler (\$7 million); and North Delaware Avenue Extension (\$5 million). The two studies include the PA Turnpike, Valley Forge to Norristown (cost to be determined); and PA Turnpike, Norristown to Lansdale (cost to be determined). Roggenburk outlined a matrix that described consistency, as well as the conformity analysis.

***ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:***

**MOTION** (by Sue McNamara, seconded by Lorraine Brill) that the RCC ask that a complete alternatives analysis be part of the Pennsylvania Turnpike, Valley Forge to Norristown, and Norristown to Lansdale, Widening Studies; alternatives to be studied should include the restoration of passenger rail to Quakertown and the Lehigh Valley, and the Cross County Metro. The RCC also noted that their comments re: TIP #P11 (North Delaware Ave.) are pertinent to this proposed amendment.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

*MOTION* (by Patrick Starr, seconded by Regina Botkin) that the DVRPC Board amend the *Year 2020 Land Use and Transportation Plan for the Delaware Valley Region* to include the following five projects in PA: Highland Avenue Extension; PA 23 Relocation; PA 309 to Sumneytown Connector; PA 63 Widening, Turnpike to Detweiler; and North Delaware Avenue Extension. The RCC also recommends that the Board endorse the Determination of Conformity between the amended Plan and the State Air Quality Implementation Plan.

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

**DRAFT FY 2000 DVRPC PLANNING WORK PROGRAM:**

Michael Gatti, DVRPC Work Program Coordinator, reminded the RCC that the Draft FY 2000 DVRPC Planning Work Program was distributed in December, 1998, and that the RTC has made recommendations that will go to the Board this month. The RCC had previously submitted recommendations to the Board for their consideration.

***ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:***

*MOTION* (by Lorraine Brill, seconded by Linda Ingenthron) to recommend that the Board approve the FY 2000 Planning Work Program, subject to necessary changes to the Transit Support Program and Supportive Highway Program based on funding constraints.

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

**FY 1999 JOB ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM:**

Barry Seymour, DVRPC Assistant Executive Director for Regional Planning, explained that the DVRPC Board on December 4, 1998 directed its Policy Committee to meet and prioritize the list of applicants for the Job Access and Reverse Commute Competitive Grant Program before submission to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on December 31, 1998. The Policy Committee met on December 22, 1998 and developed a regional recommendation for 13 projects (with one alternate) from eight applicants, totaling @\$1,57 million in FTA funding. SEPTA accepted the role of the single applicant for the one regional and ten Pennsylvania projects. NJDOT and NJ Transit had previously agreed to be the statewide applicants for two NJ projects.

In late December, NJDOT informed DVRPC that a Camden County project should not be included in the priority list due to a clarification of the application. NJDOT is seeking DVRPC Board approval of this addition to the priority list.

***ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:***

***MOTION*** (by Sue McNamara, seconded by Pat Horrocks) to recommend that the Board endorse the list of high priority projects recommended for FY 1999 Job Access and Reverse Commute Competitive Grant Program funding with the restoration of the Camden County Improvement Authority's proposed project.

***MOTION CARRIED.*** (See Item E on voting record.)

**OTHER RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

Sue McNamara reported that the Transportation Subcommittee recommended a series of additional actions.

***ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:***

***MOTION*** (by Sue McNamara, seconded by Peter Javsicas) to recommend that the Board amend the FY 1999 Planning Work Program to include Phase II of the Telecommuting - The Green Commute project of the Clean Air Council for \$150,000 in each year for FY 1999, FY 2000 and FY 2001. Funds for the effort will come from the CMAQ line item in the FY 1999 TIP.

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

***MOTION*** (by Sue McNamara, seconded by Suzanne Axworthy) to recommend that the Board urge DVRPC staff to work with member governments and SEPTA to identify an appropriate amount and funding source to reimburse SEPTA for administrative expenses which will be incurred as a result of implementing the Access to Jobs Reverse Commute Program.

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

***MOTION*** (by Sue McNamara, seconded by Regina Botkin) to recommend that the Board ask the DVRPC Chairman and Executive Director to meet with PennDOT Secretary Brad Mallory to express concern for the ability of the existing District 6-0 staff to advance engineering and design for the large number of projects in the FY 1999 - 2002

TIP, thus not meeting the funding target identified in the TIP.

***MOTION CARRIED.*** (See Item H on voting record.)

**COALITION AGAINST BIGGER TRUCKS (CABT):**

Danielle Lucas, Regional Director of CABT, outlined the purpose of her organization -- to work with other organizations to oppose larger and more dangerous trucks on the nation's highways. She stated that Ohio and New York allow triple trailers on their roads; Pennsylvania is therefore targeted by the American Trucking Association (ATA) to pressure for this exemption to the federal ban against larger and heavier trucks. Known as the "state option", this exemption would lift the 80,000 lb. limit on trucks that currently exists. Proposed changes could increase this weight by more than 10,000 lbs. Ms. Lucas reviewed the cost of damage to infrastructure as well as the safety issues, and presented a video on the issue.

**REPORT OF THE RULES SUBCOMMITTEE:**

Linda Ingenthron, Subcommittee Chair, stated that the group had just met and reviewed the RCC's current guidelines for membership, noting that there are voting and corresponding members. This letter category designates those who receive RCC mailings but do not attend meetings. In addition, those who were RCC members prior to 1990 are designated as "charter members" and are grandfathered into the process, exempting them from attendance requirements. Ms. Ingenthron stated that her subcommittee needs additional input from other members before writing up procedures on membership maintenance. She did recommend, however, that a postcard be sent to members annually to update and/or correct the membership list.

Bill Rafsky noted that the RCC needs to make an effort to get other interests involved in the committee; namely, chambers of commerce, the private sector, academics, labor unions, utilities, transportation management associations, etc. Dennis Winters stated that he would be willing to send a letter to various groups inviting them to join. After some discussion, the RCC decided that they will request that a letter be drafted from the Board Chair, the Executive Director and the RCC Chairman and issued to a list of organizations and companies as a means of promoting membership to a more varied group.

