

**MEETING MINUTES
OF THE DVRPC REGIONAL CITIZENS COMMITTEE
JUNE 8, 1999**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the RCC meeting of May 11, 1999 were approved as mailed.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Dennis Winters, RCC Chair, reviewed the Staff Summary of Board action, noting that the DVRPC Board had approved appointing a non-motorized bicycle representative to the CMAQ Committee. The RCC had appointed Sue McNamara to fill this position if the Board did authorize the position. He noted that the Board's response to the Venice Island issue was to state that DVRPC could not get involved unless federal transportation dollars were part of the project. Darlene Messina stated that she believes that transportation dollars will be involved in this project and that floodplain issues should involve the MPO. She will research this and return in July with more information. The Environmental Subcommittee will meet to discuss this issue next month. (Subcommittee member include Darlene Messina, Jane Glenn, Kevin Smith, Peggy Killmer, Shirley Loveless and Dennis Winters. Winters next outlined the RTC discussion regarding Transportation Management Associations (TMA's).

The Transportation Subcommittee received copies of the draft TIP at its June meeting. Candace Snyder stated that the public comment period for the Draft FY 2000 - 2002 DVRPC TIP for New Jersey opened on May 27 and will continue until June 28, 1999. Copies of the draft TIP are available for Transportation Subcommittee members; staff is recommending that the RCC ask the subcommittee to examine the TIP and submit its comments to the RCC for the full committee's endorsement in early July. Even though this will fall after the close of the public comment period, it will allow the RCC to review the staff's assessment of public comments and will still be timely for Board submittal. Copies of the TIP cannot be provided to the entire RCC because of the size of the document. The publication is available, however, in a number of regional libraries and on DVRPC's webpage. The RCC endorsed the Transportation Subcommittee taking the lead in reviewing the Draft TIP for New Jersey and coming back to the committee in July with recommended comments.

Dennis Winters questioned whether the committee wanted to meet in August. The DVRPC conference area will be under renovations and no DVRPC committees will meet in August. The RCC responded that they would like to hold an August evening meeting if another site could be found. Jane Glenn will check into a possible site in Manayunk. In addition, it is recommended that the RCC move its November meeting date from the 2nd Tuesday to the 23rd.

This will better align it with the November RTC meeting date and the December Board Retreat. This would move the Transportation Subcommittee date to November 18th. The RCC agreed.

TIP AMENDMENT 9828:

Sue McNamara, Transportation Subcommittee Chair, reported that TIP Amendment 9828 is an adjustment by NJDOT of costs and scheduling on existing TIP projects. These projects include Route 29 (Sections 10C and 11B), Route 73 (Section 5), and Route 42 Roadside Rehabilitation Program. Fiscal constraint is being maintained by the Route 73 and Route 30 release of funds from the right of way phase, and a rescheduling of the construction phase of Route 29 and Scotch Road. These re-evaluations and changes are already reflected in the draft FY 2000 - 2002 DVRPC Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for New Jersey that has now been released to the public. Sue McNamara had questioned the extent of the Route 42 project, which involves 9-1/2 miles of landscaping from mile posts 6 to 14.5. The subcommittee recommends that the RCC approve TIP Amendment 9828 but continue to express its opposition to the Route 29 project.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Sue McNamara, seconded by Claudia Crane) that the Board approve TIP Amendment 9828; however, the RCC wishes to again express its opposition to the New Jersey Route 29 project.

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

TIP AMENDMENT 9906:

Ms. McNamara reported on TIP Amendment 9904, which is the DRPA “Smart Bridges” project that integrates various Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) applications from planning, systems engineering and operations perspectives. In addition, communications and incident response capabilities will be enhanced. Illy Sobel asked that DVRPC staff be urged to examine improvements in equipment for accident removal. The subcommittee recommends that the RCC approve TIP Amendment 9906.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Sue McNamara, seconded by Miles Day) that the Board approve TIP Amendment 9906. The RCC believes that Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), when used to address safety issues and handle incident management, are crucial.

However, the RCC opposes ITS when they facilitate SOV capacity.

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

TIP MODIFICATION 9907:

Ms. McNamara reported that TIP Amendment 9907, addresses a line item for SEPTA’s Transit Enhancements program. The transit enhancements program defines eligible activities as historic preservation and rehabilitation, bus shelters, landscaping, and other scenic beautification. SEPTA has asked DVRPC to endorse the use of federal funds for the historic preservation and renovation of four train stations. Design has been completed; three are under construction and the other one is about to begin. Additional funds are needed to advance the work at all four stations. Sue McNamara stated that bike racks are needed at these stations and she had forwarded this request to SEPTA but had not received an answer from the agency. The subcommittee recommends that the RCC approve TIP Modification 9907 but recommends that the Committee state that future Transportation Enhancement projects and the selection process in general should be more open-ended and responsive.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Sue McNamara, seconded by John Pawson) that the Board approve TIP Modification 9907. However, the RCC believes that the selection process for future Transit Enhancement projects should be more open and responsive, and should parallel the process used by highway agencies in making TE decisions.

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

ADDITIONAL CITY STREETS MODIFICATION:

A possible TIP Modification from the City Streets Department is pending, according to Ms. McNamara. She explained that the Center City Traffic System is divided into four quadrants; the City is upgrading and coordinating up to 82 traffic signals. The bid for this work has come in at a higher cost than anticipated, and the City needs an additional \$3.8 million for the project. The City is working with PennDOT to identify other CMAQ projects where the schedule has slipped and where funds might be available. The RTC voted to support this request contingent upon an available funding source. Ms. McNamara and Candace Snyder explained that the Streets Department had indicated their intent to provide a project description prior to the RCC meeting. The subcommittee voted to defer action pending the submittal of a written description at the RCC meeting. The City’s description was received during the RCC meeting and did not provide much more information than already available.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Ernest Cohen, seconded by Rikki Saunders) that the Board defer action on the Philadelphia City Streets Department TIP Modification because of a lack of information and because of concern for a disregard for the planning and committee process.

MOTION CARRIED. (See Item D on voting record.0)

In addition, Ms. McNamara reported that the City of Philadelphia had submitted the Arterial Interconnect Project for a reduction in scope so that a smaller number of corridors can be advanced using the currently programmed CMAQ funds. Because of the minor changes involved in this project, the RTC voted to approve administrative action rather than the formal approval of the DVRPC Board. Lorraine Brill stated that the community is very upset about this action regarding the Castor Ave. intersection. She suggested that the RCC draft a letter to the City Streets Department and PennDOT asking for assurances that public meetings will be held to answer questions about the specific intersections.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Lorraine Brill, seconded by Sue McNamara) that the RCC wishes to voice its concern that changes to the City of Philadelphia Arterial Interconnect Project (TIP # 9705) are being handled as an administrative action. Community opposition to some of these changes has become evident (particularly regarding the Castor Ave., Everett Ave. Magee Ave. intersection), and the RCC therefore seeks assurances from the City Streets Department and PennDOT that public meetings will be held for the communities surrounding these intersection so that concerns can be addressed.

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

NON-TRADITIONAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM FOR PA:

Dr. Don Shanis, DVRPC Deputy Director for Transportation, stated that DVRPC is acting as project manager for PennDOT's smaller non-traditional projects; the agency will probably provide engineering and administrative expertise for about 30 projects. This arrangement helps the Commission to be more able to implement projects and helps PennDOT to move more projects to completion. This is the region's response to more transportation dollars coming into the area and Brad Mallory's not to increase PennDOT's District VI staff.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Kevin Smith, seconded by Sue McNamara) that the Board approve the expansion of DVRPC staff to assist PennDOT in the implementation of non-traditional transportation projects.

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

NJDOT 1999 - 2001 STUDY AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENT:

John Jennings, NJDOT Supervising Planner, stated that the Access Management Plan for the Washington Township Town Center is a technical correction to the New Jersey Study and Development Program. The Town Center Plan includes urban design and aesthetics for the new community; is pedestrian and bicycle friendly; applies traffic calming techniques to develop a Main Street and sense of community; and reclaims the existing Route 33 as Main Street. Jennings reviewed the vision of the town center; the coordination and technical assistance indicated in the project; the benefits of the access plan; plan limits and contents; public involvement; and the .8 mile bypass which is necessary to serve local and regional traffic. The RCC discussed its concerns regarding density and open space; intrastate transit connections; and the need to consider environmental impacts. Dennis Winters suggested that the RCC's Environmental Subcommittee could provide valuable input and monitor this project to look at environmental concerns. Jennings indicated his willingness to involve the subcommittee.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Peggy Killmer, seconded by Patrick Starr) that the Board approve the Amendment to the NJDOT 1999 - 2001 Study and Development Program to include the Access Management Plan for Washington Township. The RCC also feels that the project should examine the feasibility of connecting to a future intrastate transit system, preferably using light rail.

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

DVRPC YEAR 2025 REGIONAL AND COUNTY POPULATION AND EMPLOYMENT FORECASTS:

Joel Fontane, DVRPC Regional Economist, reported that it is time to update and extend the Year 2020 forecasts for regional and county population and employment. He reviewed the overall slow growth rate in population between 1997 and 2025, and stated that this population will generally grow older with a loss of those between ages 25 and 50. This factor will hamper the region's ability to add jobs. Fontane announced that the Delaware Valley's population numbers will be revised downward from earlier estimates.

He sees an approximate 16% growth rate in jobs to the year 2025. Montgomery County will lead the region's employment growth. About 69% of the region's employment will be in the service sector; retail and manufacturing will lose jobs. Fontane stated that a cohort component model was used to calculate these numbers. Next steps include adopting these numbers, and then moving ahead to develop MCD forecasts for 2025.

The RCC discussed the direction these forecasts indicate in spite of years of planning; the need for change in future trends; the committee's concern over labor force constraints; regional tax base sharing; and suburban sprawl. Fontane stated that DVRPC recognizes that this is a cautionary tale and pointed out that the population and employment numbers are a statement of "what is", and may not be what the RCC wants to hear. However, these numbers can be used to foster change in the future.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Claudia Crane, seconded by Lorraine Brill) to recommend that the Board approve the Year 2025 Regional and County Population and Employment Forecasts, but recommends using these findings as a first step in curbing sprawl and encouraging redevelopment of the urban area.

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

PENN VEST FUNDING REQUESTS FROM BUCKS, CHESTER AND DELAWARE COUNTIES:

Barry Seymour, DVRPC Assistant Executive Director for Regional Planning, outlined the origins of the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENN VEST), which was established by Governor Ridge to provide long-term low-interest loans for infrastructure expansion. DVRPC and PENN VEST share a voluntary advisory relationship; DVRPC reviews water and sewer infrastructure requests for consistency with the Year 2020 Plan for the region. Seymour reviewed three pending requests.

East Rockhill Township in Bucks County has requested a \$1,218,736 loan to construct a 113,000 GPD wastewater treatment plant and 4,000 foot interceptor line to provide 411 EDU connections. There is a question as to whether this is an identified growth area within the regional plan. There is also an implication that by removing existing connections, new capacity will be opened up. If this public money is not provided, a local bank has offered private funds at the same interest rate.

Historic Yellow Springs, Inc., in Chester County has requested \$100,000 to replace existing failed absorption beds on site. No increase in capacity is sought.

Delaware County Regional Water Quality Control Authority is seeking \$8,500,000 to design and build an upgraded pump station, together with three miles of force main to divert existing flows from the CDCA Service Area to DELCORA's WRTP in Chester. No additional capacity is created by this project.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by J. D. Scott, seconded by Kevin Smith) to recommend that the Board approve the PENN VEST funding requests in Delaware and Chester counties, but deny the request in Bucks County because it adds capacity and serves as a resolution of a local conflict without regard for the regional impact of such a decision. The project should not be subsidized with public monies.

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

REGIONAL JOB ACCESS AND REVERSE COMMUTE TRANSPORTATION PLAN:

Richard Bickel, DVRPC Associate Director of Regional Planning, had reviewed the intent of the Regional Job Access and Reverse Commute Transportation Plan in May, indicating that TEA-21 included this program; the Commission had been asked to facilitate a process for letters of intent within a two-month period last fall. SEPTA and NJDOT became overall applicants, acting as umbrella agencies for a number of projects. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has indicated that all regional projects have been approved for a total of \$1.8 million. The only project not included in this amount is SEPTA's "How to Ride Guide" in multi-lingual format. Bickel repeated that the Transportation Plan document had been available during a public comment period in May and at a public meeting held May 10th. Jeff Butler, DVRPC Regional Planner, outlined the changes made to the Plan as a result of public comments. This revised Plan document will go to the DVRPC Board in late June for approval. The Plan will be modified each year as necessary.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Sue McNamara, seconded by J. D. Scott) to recommend that the Board endorse the Regional Job Access and Reverse Commute Transportation Plan.

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

YEAR 2025 LONG-RANGE PLAN:

Richard Bickel next outlined the time line and products of the Year 2025 Long-Range Plan for the region. These include the first of a series of five tabloids to be published in July of this year. This tabloid will focus on "Where we are and where we're going." The others will include "Issues and Choices", "Land Use", "Transportation", and "How do we get there?". The planning process will conclude in December, 2000 with an Annual Report-style Plan Summary that includes the Plan's overall recommendations. Public involvement will feature community charrettes, public and business surveys, public hearings, etc. DVRPC's website will be utilized as well to get the message out to various constituencies. The RCC noted that they would enjoy a presentation on DVRPC's website in the

future.

PRESENTATIONS:

Patrick Starr of the PA Environmental Council, deferred his presentation on “Trends and Recommendations for Transit-Oriented Development” until July since the agenda was running late. 10,000 Friends of PA distributed hand-outs on a series of Land Use Forums that will be held across the Commonwealth throughout the summer. The forums are intended to provide the state with the opportunity to learn more about creative solutions already implemented at the local level to promote sound land use. The schedule is set for Bucks County on June 29; Montgomery County on June 30; Philadelphia on July 1; Delaware County on July 20; and Chester County on July 21, 1999.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Transportation: Illy Sobel reported that he had presented a resolution at the Transportation Subcommittee that would allow the RCC to appoint task force members to specific CMS committees for the purpose of promoting alternate and innovative transit. The RCC would in turn have to ask the DVRPC Board to appoint an RCC member to each CMS committee.

ACTION TAKEN BY COMMITTEE:

MOTION (by Sue McNamara, seconded by Illy Sobel) to approve the following resolution:

Whereas congestion management studies favor the construction of single occupancy lanes;
Whereas members of the RCC have expressed disappointment with the CMS outcomes;
Whereas participation in the CMS is open to all interested parties;

Be It Resolved that the Regional Citizens Committee has established a task force to study, develop and introduce new proposals to the CMS forums underway. This is for the purpose of having a more flexible evaluation of transit alternatives during the CMS process. In turn, this may result in the expectation of more implementable alternate public transportation.

Therefore, the RCC requests that the DVRPC Board inform the Pennsylvania and New Jersey departments of transportation, as well as DVRPC staff, that a member of the DVRPC Regional Citizens Committee should be appointed to all future CMS committees for the purpose of presenting alternative transit options.

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

Legislative: Cathy Zukoski stated that the subcommittee had met and discussed SB 800. Ernest Cohen requested that Representative Stiles of Bucks County be invited to the August meeting, as well as 10,000 Friends of PA. The RCC discussed melding the Legislative and Environmental Subcommittees into one group that would have more impact; the RCC then voted to do so.

Rules: No report.

Year 2025: Ernest Cohen emphasized Illy Sobel's work and requested that Sobel be given time on the July agenda to review and comment on his paper, entitled *Making Public Transit Competitive*, which had been mailed to the RCC this month.

Housing: No report..

Environmental: No report.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Linda Ingenthron announced recent election results in her community, noting that those who favored a Route 41 Bypass won resoundingly.

Peggy Killmer distributed a letter questioning NJDOT's procedure in apparently spending design dollars on a Millstone Bypass alignment before doing the required Environmental Assessment (EA). Ms. Killmer questioned whether this project will come again before the DVRPC Board for a vote; Candace Snyder stated that she will check prior to the next meeting. This issue will be referred to the Transportation Subcommittee for discussion if immediate action seems necessary.